

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 51

15 March 1978

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat Cables Leaders on Israeli Attack	A 1	1/A7
Riyad Sends Cable to UN Secretary General	A 1	1/A7
'Arafat Speaks at Kamal Junblatt Rally [VOP]	A 2	1/A8
Shararah Speaks at Rally [VOP]	A 2	1/A8
Qaddumi Explains Purpose of Operation in Israel [Budapest]	A 3	1/A9
VOP Denies Qatari Paper's Inaccuracies, Fabrications	A 3	1/A9
SED-PLO Communique Issued on 'Arafat Visit [cross-reference]	A 4	1/A10
VOP Reports PLO Cable of Protest to Waldheim	A 4	1/A10
Fatah Official on Secret Decision to Exterminate PLO	A 4	1/A10
Arab League Council To Meet in Cairo on 27 March	A 5	1/A11
Arab Military Organization, France Sign Accord	A 5	1/A11
PFLP Warns of Possible Israeli Operation in Western Beirut	A 6	1/A12
Saudi, Iraqi Finance Ministers on State of the Dollar	A 6	1/A12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

SAUDI ARABIA

Defense Minister Comments on Supply of F-15's	C 1	1/A13
Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks	C 1	1/A13
Arab Situation Discussed	C 1	1/A13
Khaddam Received by King	C 1	1/A13
Khaddam Departs 14 March	C 1	1/A13

UAE

Deputy Supreme Commander Discusses Defense	C 2	1/A14
--	-----	-------

YEMEN--PDRY

Cuban Foreign Minister, Prime Minister Meet [Havana]	C 4	1/B2
Malmierca Briefed	C 4	1/B2

YEMEN--YAR

Foreign Minister Returns, Makes Statement	C 5	1/B3
Chairman Receives PLO Representative, Ambassador	C 5	1/B3

EGYPT

Cairo Radio Cites REUTER on Israeli Move Into Lebanon	D 1	1/B4
Later Cairo Report	D 1	1/B4
As-Sadat Answers Questions on Tel Aviv Operation	D 1	1/B4
Cairo Media Comment on Palestinian Raid in Israel	D 2	1/B5

Cairo Radio Comment	D 2	1/85
AL-AKHBAR Editor's Comment [13 Mar 78]	D 3	1/86
Anti-Palestinian Demonstration in Moscow Reported [AL-AKHBAR 13 Mar 78]	D 5	1/88
Cyprus President Meets With Egyptian Official	D 5	1/88
Cairo Reports As-Sadat Arrival in Bani Suwayf	D 5	1/88
As-Sadat Dialog With Agronomist	D 6	1/89
As-Sadat Speech	D 7	1/810
Further Dialog With Agronomist	D 8	1/811
AL-AHRAM Reports As-Sadat CBS Interview	D 8	1/811
Official Discusses Ogaden With Soviet Ambassador	D 9	1/812

IRAQ

ATH-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH Praise Tel Aviv Operation	E 1	1/813
Deported Palestinian Students Arrive in Baghdad	E 2	1/814
Briefs: Cuban Ambassador Presents Credentials; Saudi Ambassador Presents Credentials	E 2	1/814

JORDAN

AR-RA'Y Comments on Israeli Attack on Lebanon	F 1	1/C1
AD-DUSTUR Comments on Possible Israeli Retaliation	F 2	1/C2

LEBANON

Prime Minister al-Huss Condemns Israeli Attack	G 1	1/C2
Officials Hold Contacts on Israeli Attack	G 1	1/C2
Southern Deputies Summoned	G 1	1/C2
Cabinet Discusses Attack	G 1	1/C2
Al-Huss Makes Statement [Voice of Lebanon]	G 2	1/C3
Sarkis Makes Statement	G 2	1/C3
Ministers Discuss Situation	G 3	1/C4
Butrus Receives Ambassadors	G 3	1/C4
U.S. Contacted on Security Council [Voice of Lebanon]	G 4	1/C5
Syrian Officials in Contact	G 4	1/C5
Officials Make Arrangements for Aid, Shelter	G 4	1/C5
Assembly Centers Set Up	G 4	1/C5
Health Minister Gives Instructions	G 5	1/C6
UN Observers in South Report to United Nations [Voice of Lebanon]	G 5	1/C6
Israeli Attack on Southern Lebanon Reported	G 5	1/C6
0515 GMT Report [Voice of Lebanon]	G 6	1/C7
0527 GMT Report [Voice of Lebanon]	G 7	1/C8
0815 GMT Report [Voice of Lebanon]	G 7	1/C8
0818 GMT Report [Voice of Lebanon]	G 7	1/C8
0930 GMT Report [Voice of Lebanon]	G 7	1/C8
1000 GMT Report [Voice of Lebanon]	G 8	1/C9
1025 GMT Report [Voice of Lebanon]	G 8	1/C9
1050 GMT Report [Voice of Lebanon]	G 8	1/C9
Beirut Radio Summary 1130 GMT	G 8	1/C9
Palestinians Build Bridge [Voice of Lebanon]	G 9	1/C10
INA Reports on Attack	G 9	1/C10
Joint Forces Claim Success	G 11	1/C12
INA: Israelis Strafe Ad-Damur	G 11	1/C12
INA: Israelis Shell Sabra Camp	G 11	1/C12
Newsman Crowd Beirut; South Lebanon Tense	G 11	1/C12

Foreign Minister Butrus Meets With U.S. Ambassador	G 12	1/C13
Al-Jumayyil Expresses Opinion on Bus Attack	C 12	1/C13
Qatari Paper Reports Syrian Forces on Alert	C 12	1/C13
Lebanese Front Discusses Israeli Threats	G 13	1/C14
Lebanese Army Announces Campaign for Volunteers	G 13	1/C14

SYRIA

Official Condemns Israeli Attack on Southern Lebanon	H 1	1/D1
Damascus Report on Attack	H 1	1/D1
Khaddam Returns Home Following Visit to Saudi Arabia	H 2	1/D2
Syrian-Soviet Cooperation Committee Meets in Damascus	H 2	1/D2
Khulayfawi, Romanian Prime Minister Manescu Resume Talks	H 2	1/D2
Inspect Projects in Aleppo	H 2	1/D2
People's Assembly Discusses Draft Law on Arms, Terrorism	H 2	1/D2

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves Damascus for Home	I 1	1/D3
---	-----	------

SUDAN

Ethiopian Envoy Arrives for Talks With Officials	I 1	1/D3
Bakr Receives British Minister Frank Judd	I 1	1/D3

ISRAEL

Foreign Ministry: No U.S. Appeal for Restraint	N 1	1/D4
Announcement on IDF Action in S. Lebanon Reported	N 1	1/D4
Weizman, Gur Hold Press Conference on S. Lebanon Operation	N 1	1/D4
Air Force Strikes in North Announced by IDF	N 11	1/D14
Base Near Beirut	N 11	1/D14
Attack Tyre Port	N 11	1/D14
'Arafat Spokesman Quoted on Villages Taken	N 11	1/D14
Begin, Weizman Tour Northern Border Area	N 11	1/D14
Military Reporter Analyzes IDF Action in S. Lebanon	N 12	1/E1
Reactions to Operation From Various Sources Reported	N 13	1/E2
Egyptian Disappointment	N 13	1/E2
Palestinian Comment	N 13	1/E2
U.S. Reaction	N 13	1/E2
Terrorist Group Reported To Be in Cyprus	N 14	1/E3
Ambassador to Austria Recalled for Consultation	N 14	1/E3
'Source' Says Egypt Prepared for Separate Peace	N 14	1/E3
Further Details	N 15	1/E4

IRAN

Khalatbari Comments on Iran's Relations With GDR, Kenya	R 1	1/E5
Briefs: Prince Returns to Teheran	R 1	1/E5

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

Ziaur Rahman To Depart for Visit to Japan 5 April	S	1	1/E6
Paper Reports Election of Awami League Officials	S	1	1/E6
[BANGLADESH OBSERVER 7 Mar 78]			

INDIA

DPK Vice President Arrives in Delhi 15 March	S	1	1/E6
Zambian President Expresses Regret Over Chona Letter	S	2	1/E7
Vajpayee Returns From Marutian Visit 15 Mar	S	2	1/E7
Indian Satellite To Be Launched by End of Year	S	2	1/E7

PAKISTAN

Romanian-Pakistani Cooperation Programs Signed [AGERPRES]	S	3	1/E8
Radio Commentary on Korean Reunification, Relations	S	3	1/E8
Pirzada Case Referred to Disqualification Tribunal	S	5	1/E10

BRIEFS

Indian-British Economic Meeting; Bahraini Minister Visits India;	S	5	1/E10
EEC Cereals Grant to Sri Lanka; Sri Lanka Minister To Visit			
Yugoslavia			

MAR 2 1978

FBIS-MEA-78-51
Wednesday
15 March 1978
Vol V No 51

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

67

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced . . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says . . ."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

'ARAFAT CABLES LEADERS ON ISRAELI ATTACK

JN151135Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser 'Arafat today sent a cable to the Arab kings and presidents urging them to shoulder their pan-Arab and historic responsibilities to confront the Zionist onslaught against southern Lebanon.

The cable reads: The Zionist enemy have sent in between 25,000 and 28,000 soldiers, supported by heavy artillery, rockets, tanks and air force and naval units, to all fronts in southern Lebanon. Fierce battles are raging on all fighting axes. The Lebanese villages and the Palestinian camps are being exposed to an armored attack in addition to ground and naval artillery bombing.

In his cable 'Arafat said that the enemy attack, which is of unprecedented intensity, stretches all along the Lebanese border lines from an-Naqurah in the west to Mount Hermon in the east.

RIYAD SENDS CABLE TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL

NC151343Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has asked UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to act immediately in accordance with the authority vested in him by the UN Charter to end the Israeli aggression and bring about the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

This was contained in the cable the Arab League Secretary General sent to the UN secretary general today.

The cable says that last night Israeli forces crossed the border of an Arab state which is a member of the Arab League and the United Nations. This aggressive intervention has taken the shape of an actual war by Israel, which is using its naval, air and ground forces.

The cable denounces the excuse put out by the Israeli defense minister regarding the Israeli forces' incursion into Lebanon. The cable says the Israeli aggression has led to a number of Lebanese civilian casualties, in addition to the fact that it is aimed at exterminating the Palestinian people, whose land Israel has usurped and who have been forced by Israel to leave their country and to take refuge in Lebanon.

The cable says in conclusion that the Israeli aggression is aimed at occupying additional Arab territories and is liable to create complications that will endanger peace in the Middle East.

The Arab League secretary general asked the director of the Arab League office at the United Nations to distribute this cable to the UN member states. He also asked that the Arab group should hold a meeting in order to unify the Arab stand.

'ARAFAT SPEAKS AT KAMAL JUNBLATT RALLY

JN141739Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has announced that the [Lebanese] nationalist movement and the Palestinian revolution are confronting in the most critical region imperialism, Zionism and colonialism--headed by the United States, which is waging this vicious battle against the Arab nation and the Palestinian people.

Abu 'Ammar added that the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement are struggling against a many-headed and multifaceted conspiracy. We are waging this battle not only on one front but on several fronts. Our destiny is to wage this vicious war and confront all overt and covert conspiracies.

This came in a speech delivered yesterday by the brother leader at a rally held on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Lebanese leader Kamal Junblatt.

Shararah Speaks in Beirut

JN142017Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] At a rally held in Beirut yesterday on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Lebanese leader Kamal Junblatt, brother Majid Abu Shararah, official in charge of unified Palestinian information and secretary of the Revolutionary Council of the Fatah movement, delivered a long speech in the name of the Palestinian revolution under the title: The Arab-Zionist Struggle In Its Current Stage. He said:

It is wrong to think that the moves we are now witnessing are aimed at arriving at a settlement of the Arab-Israeli struggle. What we are now witnessing is in fact and in essence an attempt to define the features of the Arab region, and thus define the identity of the forces prevailing in the area.

Brother Abu Shararah added: Thus I must note that the strongest enemy in this battle of confrontation is world imperialism, led by the United States, which is interested in controlling the Arab area and subjugating it to its influence. Israel has assumed the basic role in the field of protecting imperialist interests, side by side with the Arab reactionary regimes. Therefore, choosing Palestine as a target for the colonialist activity of Zionism is in conformity with the aims of these colonialist forces to colonialize the Middle East.

Brother Abu Shararah concluded by saying that the cohesion between the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian revolution has charged the mobilized, organized, armed and fighting potentials of the masses, whose victory will necessarily lead to the required process of change. This will in turn inevitably lead to the termination of the Arab-Zionist struggle to the benefit of the forces of liberation and progress.

Abu Shararah further said: Let us make the anniversary of Kamal Junblatt's martyrdom a reason to continue the march. Let us also act according to the saying of our martyr Kamal Junblatt: Is there anything more honorable than crossing the bridge of death to give life to others, give their cause the power of eventual triumph, and entrench the ideal of steadfastness and sacrifice in the hearts of the strugglers?

QADDUMI EXPLAINS PURPOSE OF OPERATION IN ISRAEL

LD142324Y Budapest Domestic Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Our colleague Sando Regoe asked Faruq Qaddumi, head of the political department of the PLO Executive Committee, who arrived in Budapest on Sunday, about the Palestinian armed action last Saturday. [begin recording]

[Question] What was the aim of the action in Tel Aviv on Saturday?

[Answer in English with translation superimposed] First of all the question is why are we Palestinians forced to carry out such activities? Dying in battle is not equivalent to suicide. Our sons know why they are fighting; they sacrifice themselves for our people's issue because they have been driven out of their motherland. The Israelis are clinging to the occupied areas; they insist on ignoring the rights of the Palestinians. The imperialists--with Carter in the vanguard--deny the existence of the PLO. Brzezinski said: Goodbye PLO. This gave the impetus for the Palestinians to carry out such actions. The time has come for the imperialist powers to ask themselves: Does Israel's policy of grabbing territory really result in security to Israel? Is it not necessary to examine the status quo in the Middle East and make it possible for the Palestinians to create their own independent state?

[Question] Do these actions mean that the PLO is giving up negotiations and chooses armed struggle?

[Answer] This is a strange question. Who renounces Geneva? Who torpedoes the Geneva Conference? Who is not prepared to withdraw from the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula and from the western shores? Who does not recognize the PLO--the United States, who supports Israel. Who does not implement the resolutions of the UN General Assembly? Who massacres our people--Begin, the terrorist, who killed hundreds of people decades ago. He is the murderer of our people. We were driven out of our homeland and we want to return. Who renounces a peaceful solution--is it not the imperialists, the United States and President Carter? Who is it who in reality completely ignores the Soviet-American joint declaration about the Middle East? Did not the Americans themselves nullify it?

[Question] What possibilities do you see for the Palestinians to return to their homeland?

[Answer] We must return: The UN has passed the appropriate resolutions. These should be implemented so that my people can return. We are not anti-Jewish. We wish to live with them in peace. We reject only Zionism, we are against Zionists, against Begin. We lived in Palestine once, why can we not live there today? Why can we not return? This is the question we are asking. Why are the UN resolutions not implemented? [end recording]

VOP DENIES QATARI PAPER'S INACCURACIES, FABRICATIONS

JN141606Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT
14 Mar 78 JN

[For a Doha QNA report on the Abu Iyad statement referred to below, see the item sub-headed "Abu Iyad Statement" on page A 5 of the 13 March Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT]

[Text] A responsible information source in the Palestinian revolution has stated the following: The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB has recently fabricated statements attributed to certain brothers in the Palestinian revolution command.

We wish to affirm that such statements, which are the figment of the imagination of the above-mentioned newspaper, do not serve the Palestinian cause and are extremely detrimental to the integrity of the profession of journalism and to the extent of its commitment to accuracy, objectivity and truth, particularly under these delicate circumstances.

The most recent thing fabricated by the paper was an alleged interview with brother Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, who has stated that he never granted this interview.

SED-PLO COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON 'ARAFAT VISIT

For the East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND text of the communique issued following the 10-12 March visit of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to the German Democratic Republic see the German Democratic Republic section of the 15 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

VOP REPORTS PLO CABLE OF PROTEST TO WALDHEIM

JN141938Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT
14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] In a cable sent yesterday to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, the PLO expressed its deep regret over the statement he made regarding the operation of martyr Kamal 'Udwan. The cable says:

This revolutionary action, which was carried out by one of our revolutionary forces, is a legitimate right practiced by the Palestinian people to defend their rights with all available means. This right is recognized by international and human laws. This right has also been recognized by the United Nations and all its specialized agencies and organizations.

The PLO greatly regrets that such a statement has been made by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. It is also regrettable that he described as terrorists those Palestinian revolutionaries who are defending the rights of their Palestinian people against the biggest crime of usurpation witnessed in modern times--a crime committed against them by fascist Zionism and imperialism. This crime has led to the dispersal of our people, expulsion from their territories and the occupation of their lands.

Our Zionist enemy has always disregarded all UN resolutions which recognize the inalienable national rights of our Palestinian people. It is ironic that it is to the terrorist Menahem Begin, whose hands are stained with the blood of our people, that you send your condolences.

FATAH OFFICIAL ON SECRET DECISION TO EXTERMINATE PLO

NC141200Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 14 March--The Fatah representative in Kuwait and the gulf, Salim az-Za'nun, also known as Abu al-Adib, has stated that the Palestinian resistance possesses secret information that Israel has adopted a secret decision which calls for exterminating the PLO. The decision was adopted during the emergency session which the Israeli Knesset held yesterday.

In an exclusive statement to the QNA correspondent in Kuwait, Abu al-Adib said the Israeli decision means attacks will be launched on PLO offices in foreign countries and against Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Abu al-Adib said that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's threats in the Knesset yesterday are a screen to conceal this serious decision.

Abu al-Adib described this decision as a criminal plot by Begin to exterminate the Palestinian people and not the PLO.

ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL TO MEET IN CAIRO ON 27 MARCH

NC141445Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1348 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 March--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has stated that the upcoming session of the Arab League Council will be held at Arab League headquarters on 27 March. In a statement today, Riyad flatly denied that the Arab League Council meeting will be postponed. He also denied that the Arab League has received from the YAR or from any other member state a request to postpone the council's meetings.

The Arab League secretary general explained that the council's session must meet in accordance with the clauses of the Arab League Charter. Under no circumstances can the meeting be postponed because, since the establishment of the Arab League in 1945, no meeting of the Arab League Council has ever been postponed. As far as the topics on the agenda of the meeting are concerned, this can be left to the time when the council meets on the date fixed for this purpose.

Meanwhile, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Oman have informed the Arab League that their foreign ministers will head their countries' delegations to the Arab League Council meeting. Yesterday Sudan informed the Arab League that Vice President and Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir will head his country's delegation to the meeting since Sudan is chairman of the coming session.

Lebanese charge d'affaires in Cairo Zaydan Zaydan informed the Arab League today that Lebanon in the next 2 days will send a request to the Arab League to extend the Arab deterrent forces mandate in Lebanon for an additional 6 months. The mandate of these forces expires on 27 April.'

ARAB MILITARY ORGANIZATION, FRANCE SIGN ACCORD

NC141250Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Paris, 14 March--A protocol on technical cooperation between the Arab Military Industrial Organization and France was signed at the French Defense Ministry this afternoon.

The protocol was signed for the Arab Military Industrial Organization by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi and for France by French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Arab Military Industrial Organization Board of Directors Chairman Dr Ashraf Marwan, Saudi representative Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Latif al-Milhim, Qatari representative Maj Gen Muhammad Mahmud, UAE representative Maj Gen 'Awad al-Khalidi, and Egyptian representative Ahmad Zindu. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE and Egypt are members of the Arab Military Industrial Organization.

Earlier, General al-Jamasi held a 1-hour meeting with French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges. The meeting was attended by members of the Arab Military Industrial Organization delegation.

PFLP WARNS OF POSSIBLE ISRAELI OPERATION IN WESTERN BEIRUT

JN141352Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1232 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 March--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has warned against a possible Israeli terrorist operation aimed at western Beirut. The front said that the Zionist enemy is planning such an operation with the cooperation of the Lebanese fascist parties.

In a statement issued today, the front said that intensive contacts were made last night between the port of Haifa in occupied Palestine and the port of Juniyah north of Beirut, which is under the control of the rightist forces. The front said that the enemy is concentrating its forces along the southern border to launch a large-scale aggression with the cooperation of the agent forces inside Lebanon.

SAUDI, IRAQI FINANCE MINISTERS ON STATE OF THE DOLLAR

NC111434Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 11 March--Saudi Minister of Finance Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl today denied a report that Saudi Arabia, West Germany, Japan and some oil-producing states would invest \$15 billion in the international market to support the dollar. He affirmed that the report is untrue and that the kingdom has no plans now or in the future to intervene in this way to support the dollar.

Shaykh Aba al-Khayl is currently in Kuwait to attend the meetings of the gulf authority for supporting the Egyptian economy and the authority for agricultural development in the Sudan. Commenting on the kingdom's losses due to the fall in the value of the dollar, he said it is difficult to define the amount of the kingdom's losses and that this matter must not be viewed from the quantitative aspect only. He said: A strong dollar is in the interest of the gulf states, but I do not propose direct support.

Iraqi Minister of Finance Dr Fawzi al-Qaysi, who is in Kuwait for the same purpose, said that his country's losses as a result of the fall in the value of the dollar are estimated at 10 percent of the country's revenues and 10 percent of the country's dollar reserves if these reserves were to be exchanged for other currencies.

He called for early adoption of a firm stand to confront this question through short-term and long-term plans. First of all the question of freezing oil prices should be reconsidered and the prices raised. Secondly, a currency basket should be created which would be a more stable indicator of the value of the dollar. The Iraqi minister said that the fall in the value of the dollar does not warrant convening an OPEC summit. A meeting at the oil ministers' level would be sufficient, he said.

SAUDI ARABIA

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON SUPPLY OF F-15'S

NC151100Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1003 GMT 15 Mar '78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 15 March--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the defense and aviation minister, has stressed that the Zionist attempts inside and outside the United States will not succeed in foiling the F-15 aircraft deal to the kingdom. In a statement to the newspaper AR-RIYAD today, his highness said: We are trying to achieve peace and I do not believe that any side wants anything other than peace. He added: The present international conditions behoove us to strengthen ourselves, work seriously for our solidarity and continue to seek peace.

Asked whether any new Arab states have applied to join the Arab military industries organization, his highness said: No new Arab state has yet joined the organization. The door is open to every fraternal Arab state that wishes to join.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

NC141043Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 14 March--Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Riyadh this morning for a visit to the kingdom. He was received at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

Arab Situation Discussed

NC141045Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 14 March--His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, met this morning with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who arrived in Riyadh earlier today. The discussions dealt with the latest developments in the Arab situation in particular and the international situation in general.

Khaddam Received by King

NC141046Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 14 March--At 1100 today His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who arrived in Riyadh this morning.

Khaddam Departs 14 March

NC141048Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1044 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 14 March--Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left Riyadh for Damascus at noon today after a visit to the kingdom which lasted for several hours. He was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and a number of other officials.

UAE

DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER DISCUSSES DEFENSE

LD141352Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Interview granted by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE crown prince and deputy supreme commander, to AL-AHRAM correspondent 'Abduh Mubashir in Abu Dhabi--date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: Armies are being built and plans being laid down to arm them, train them, and prepare them to fight against a potential enemy or enemies. Who are these enemies?

Shaykh Khalifah: It is true that we are a relatively small country, but we are seeking to become strong and capable of creating an appropriate atmosphere for growth and development in our country and to defend the gains achieved by our people. When we arm ourselves it is because the duty of every independent state is to rely on a powerful modern army that will defend its independence and national soil. At the same time we are anxious to maintain and strengthen our relations with all countries. We are a peace-loving country; we do not antagonize anybody, and concern ourselves with problems of Arab destiny, which is our destiny, and we believe that our enemy is the enemy of the Arab nation who is occupying our land. The UAE has proved in deeds, not words, its eagerness to shoulder its responsibilities and to respond to the national call.

Question: You have spent and continue to spend generously to build a powerful and modern army, but there is the problem of the quantity and quality of manpower. How are you planning to overcome this problem? Is there a plan to seek foreign volunteers to join the armed forces? You are employing foreign experts to train the armed forces. How many such experts do you have, what nationality are they and is there a fixed period for their stay.

Shaykh Khalifah: The building of a new army does not only involve the purchase of some tanks and aircraft or other modern equipment. Weapons and equipment must be used effectively by a sufficient number of officers and men. This is what the UAE is trying to achieve. We were faced with the problem of manpower from the beginning and it was natural that we should seek the assistance of brothers and friends who are ahead of us in this field, and to enlist their help whether by having them loaned to us or by recruitment. We concentrated on accepting citizens of the Arab countries in particular. Indeed we faced the lack of national cadres bravely and without any sensitivities or complexes. Sisterly and friendly countries gave us every help possible and their help greatly contributed to building the army. We have now reached the stage of being able to fill command posts at various levels and staff posts with national officers who graduated from Arab and foreign military schools and from Zayid ibn Sultan Military College in Al-'Ayn town, the college which today is considered the most important melting pot of the sons of the UAE, and which strengthens the federation.

As for the brothers loaned to us, they are given advisory posts according to their specialties. With regard to meeting the needs of the armed forces for men, his highness the supreme commander recently issued orders to study the idea of promulgating a national service law. I would rather not call it "military conscription" because it means forced labor, which does not agree with the idea of serving the flag.

Question: Are you facing any security problems on your territorial borders and, if so, what are they?

Shaykh Khalifah: Enemies of the Arab nation have always sought to stir up disputes between the Arab countries as a means of weakening Arab power and dividing it into small powers so that it will be easy to strike at them individually. You find border disputes between many Arab countries but they are not peculiar to the Arab nation alone, among the nations that have common roots. We point this out to strengthen hopes and boost confidence that all bilateral problems between the Arab countries will vanish and disappear. Our country's viewpoint, as His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan expressed on several occasions, is that every problem or dispute between one sisterly Arab country and another undermines the comprehensive Arab strategy or the higher Arab interest, that these problems and disputes do not affect the essence and, therefore, can be settled through dialog and understanding.

Question: Do you expect Israel to carry out an air strike against the oilfields and what precautions have the military planners taken against such a possibility?

Shaykh Khalifah: General Amit, former Israeli intelligence chief, in a recent statement threatened to strike at Arab oilfields in any new war that might break out in the Middle East. This threat confirms beyond any doubt that the Israeli danger does not threaten one particular state, but menaces the whole Arab nation. Therefore, we must not take these threats lightly, as they are aimed at influencing the attitude of the supporting countries. We must give these threats the weight and the importance they merit. We must also watch developments and act swiftly in all circumstances. Because the military usually plans for every eventuality, we also do the same in coordination with our brothers because Arab security is indivisible. However, the important fact that should be made clear to the Israeli planners is that what happens in this sensitive part of the world definitely affects conditions in the whole world. No one denies that the industrial countries are interested in keeping secure the sources of energy in this area. Therefore, Israel must think hard before launching any venture that might endanger international interests.

Question: The Arabian Peninsula states, and particularly the gulf states, have spent large sums on modern weapons and equipment. This was done without coordination between the countries or discussion of their ability to absorb such weapons. Do you expect coordination to take place in the future, even if at a minimum level?

Shaykh Khalifah: We must not lose sight of the fact that any strength for any Arab country is a plus for the Arab nation; arms in any Arab country are an asset to the whole Arab world. The Ramadan war gave us an opportunity to test our resources and capabilities. They proved to be vast and capable of giving strength to the Arabs in their attempts to preserve their entity; provided there is good coordination between these resources and they are used in the best possible way. On the level of the gulf countries, officials constantly consult and coordinate with each other so as to reach a formula of cooperation that will serve the interests of these countries in all fields.

Question: You participate in the Arab authority for military industrialization. What hopes do you pin on this authority and what are the problems facing it? What is the best way for it to achieve its objectives?

Shaykh Khalifah: Arab military industrialization at this critical stage of our national history has become an urgent national necessity. The Arabs have always been apostles of goodness to the whole world and are known to have no aggressive or expansionist inclinations. Nevertheless, an objective view of the dimensions of the present stage and its potential changes and development make it incumbent upon us to be ready.

The Arab nation has the capabilities and resources to build an industry based on modern technology, but the most important aspect that we must concentrate on is to train skilled Arab technicians to be capable of operating such an advanced industry. Because gaining technical expertise in this field is the best guarantee for liberating the Arab will in this field, all the agreements that the authority concludes with the international establishment stipulate the training of skilled Arab technicians on the technicalities of industrial operations. In my opinion this is the best way of achieving our objectives and creating self-confidence.

Question: Iran has become a powerful neighbor of the Arab countries and has a vast stockpile of arms. It is planned, as the shah declared, that Iran should become a major power during the coming decade. How does this policy affect your plans?

Shaykh Khalifah: Iran is a fully sovereign state and has a right to pursue the policy it wishes whether in the field of armament or other fields because this is its own affair. As far as we are concerned, Iran is a Moslem neighbor with whom we have close, amicable ties that stem from the teachings of our religion. There is no doubt that the meetings which were recently held between His Highness Shaykh Zayid and His Majesty Emperor Mohammad Reza Pahlavi represent a new and effective contribution to strengthening the ancient and historic relations between our peoples and consolidating the present relationship which is based on understanding and mutual respect between the two countries.

YEMEN--PDRY

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER, PRIME MINISTER MEET

FL142312Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Mar 78 PL

[Text] Aden--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has held talks in this capital with Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad on matters of interest to the two countries. Malmierca and his delegation arrived in Democratic Yemen 2 days ago on an official and friendly visit. The Cuban minister will later continue on a tour that will take him to African and Mideast countries.

Malmierca Briefed

JN141644Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1512 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Nonaligned newscast]

[Excerpt] Aden, 14 March--Official talks resumed here yesterday between brother Muhammad Salih Muti', Politburo member and foreign minister, and Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and foreign minister. During the talks the Cuban foreign minister was briefed on the PDRY's experiment in building a new life and on PDRY foreign relations.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS, MAKES STATEMENT

JN141516Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Yemeni members on the Yemeni-Saudi joint coordination committee, led by 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, minister of foreign affairs, returned to San'a' today from Jidda.

In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondent accompanying the delegation, the foreign minister talked about the results of the meeting of the Yemeni-Saudi joint coordination committee which was held in [words indistinct] and said: My colleagues and I on the Yemeni side are very pleased with the positive results achieved by the Yemeni-Saudi joint coordination committee and with the concern, understanding and sincere desire expressed by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in support of the YAR in all spheres.

Brother Al-Asnaj added: All these facts affirm the strength of the ties and relations existing between the two fraternal countries in a manner which serves the objectives of our Arab and Islamic nation and wards off the dangers facing it. Brother Al-Asnaj concluded his statement by saying that he will convey to brother leader Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, the contents of His Majesty King Khalid's reply to brother Al-Ghashmi's letter.

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES PLO REPRESENTATIVE; AMBASSADORS

JN141523Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col Asmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman and commander in chief of the armed forces, today received the Libyan ambassador in San'a' and held talks with him on the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries.

Al-Ghashmi then received the PLO representative in San'a' and held talks with him on the latest Middle East developments. Al-Ghashmi also received the Iraqi ambassador to the YAR and talks were held on the fraternal relations between the two countries.

V. 15 Mar 78

E G Y P T

D 1

CAIRO RADIO CITES REUTER ON ISRAELI MOVE INTO LEBANON

NC150003Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2340 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] An urgent REUTER dispatch from New York says that the American CBS said in the United States tonight that Israeli forces have entered the southern Lebanese borders in what the agency described as a clear revenge operation for the Tel Aviv incident which took place last Saturday. The American radio adds that it has no details about the number of the forces participating in the operation of crossing the borders. In Washington, a spokesman for the U.S. Government said that the government has not received any information supporting these reports.

Later Cairo Report

NC150830Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] A Palestinian military spokesman said today that the Israeli forces which are attacking southern Lebanon are estimated at about 25,000 men. Palestinian sources said the Palestinian resistance is waging ferocious battles against the Israeli invading forces in the eastern, western and central sectors of southern Lebanon.

Military correspondents in the area report that it is clear from the size of the forces participating in the attack and the concentration of the attack on the Al-'Urqub region, which is considered the stronghold of Palestinian resistance in Lebanon, that Israel wants to exterminate the resistance units. Battles are continuing all along the Palestinian strongholds in southern Lebanon, from the port of Tyre on the Mediterranean coast to the areas adjacent to the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

In the early hours today, the Israeli forces began a land, air and sea invasion of southern Lebanon. Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this morning condemned the Israeli attack against southern Lebanon. The Lebanese prime minister denied the Israeli allegations holding Lebanon responsible for the Tel Aviv operation carried out by the Palestinian resistance on Saturday.

AS-SADAT ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON TEL AVIV OPERATION

NC141418Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1317 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Foreign correspondents interview of President Anwar as-Sadat at conclusion of his tour of Bani Suwayf Governorate on 14 March--in English, live]

[Text] [Question] [Words indistinct] the recent raid would lead to more violence and might also complicate [words indistinct].

[Answer] Let me say this. It is a very sad thing, really. This is part of the vicious circle that I have done my best during my last visit to Jerusalem to break. I thought at one time that I broke it, but the response from the other side was not on the responsible level of my action. Let me repeat this: Let us break this vicious circle of action and reaction, because it will lead to nothing. I must say this: I am against anything against the civilians. This is our position here in Egypt. We had the same experience few weeks before that in Cyprus, and we have condemned this, and anything against the civilians, really, I shall always condemn as irresponsible action.

I wonder really what is the result of such action like this? I am sorry to say that we shall enter the vicious circle again if we do not heed and lose no time at all toward a peaceful settlement. As I said in the Knesset, I said that even if all the confrontation states reach a settlement with Israel and the Palestinian question is not settled, we shall not establish peace. I think this has been true lately by what has happened, and let us try to overcome the sadness of this incident towards the establishment of peace in this area.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Well, I didn't ask for this meeting, and, as I said, before a drastic change in the conception, and what I have already described as the old conception, without this drastic change in the old conception, our meeting will be fruitless.

[Question] When you talk about vicious circle are you, sir, feeling anxious that this vicious circle could eventually lead to a new war?

[Answer] Well, I really do not like the word war and I do not like using this. Whenever anything happens [people say] there is war, there is so and so. Well I do not like this logic at all. (On the contrary) I am saying that let us hope that we can overcome this sadness and the tragic action that has happened and establish peace once and forever in our area.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Well, believe me I describe it as a very sad and tragic incident. When I heard that the PLO declared responsibility about it, I asked myself a question: What will be the result? I should have linked action toward the establishment of peace instead of starting revenge again, and the vicious circle.

CAIRO MEDIA COMMENT ON PALESTINIAN RAID IN ISRAEL

Cairo Radio Comment

NC142010Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "Recognition of the Palestinian Rights Is the Way To Insure Security For All Middle East Peoples"]

[Text] From the first moments of the recent Palestinian fedayeen operation north of Tel Aviv, it has been Egypt's opinion that events like this are closely linked with what Egypt has previously stated. Egypt has been unanimously supported by the world for its stand, which is based on the fact that the Palestinian problem is the basis and essence of the entire Middle East issue and that peace in the area is essentially linked with the Palestinian issue. This is in addition to the fact that a just peace is the only true guarantee for the security of all the states and peoples of the area.

It was to be expected that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin would have drawn the necessary lessons from this operation and would have realized that extremism will only lead to greater extremism and that continued disregard of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people is the main cause for what happened and for what will happen in future acts of violence. We sincerely hope that our region will avoid future acts of violence through the establishment of peace based on the restoration of usurped rights to those who are entitled to them.

However, on the contrary, we see that Mr Begin has ignored the savage acts of violence which have been and still are being committed by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, on the one hand, and against the rest of the Arab peoples, on the other. The shooting down of the Libyan civilian airliner before the 1973 war was one of the most striking examples of such savage acts of violence. The Israeli prime minister has ignored all of this and portrays the Palestinian fedayeen action as being directed against the Jews as such and as part of the so-called annihilation campaign against the Jewish people. This is at a time when the failure to respond to the prerequisites of a just peace are considered the primary reason for the continuation of violence in the Middle East. In his speech to the Knesset on the armed Palestinian operation, Mr Begin followed the path of violence and threatened revenge. Egypt is trying seriously to remove the Middle East from this path. Begin is acting as if revenge will achieve security for Israel and not peace.

In our opinion, the Israeli prime minister would have done well to conclude from what happened that the only way to avoid such incidents is to grant the Palestinians their right to self-determination because moderation breeds moderation. The problem is not what Begin has tried to make world public opinion believe. He has exploited the Tel Aviv incident, saying that this incident proves that Israel is right in rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state. The contrary is true. The establishment of a Palestinian state would end all motives for violence among the Palestinian people and would insure the establishment of peace and security for all the peoples of the region.

Neutral observers and even official politicians in the world unanimously agree that the lesson of the recent Tel Aviv operation is that the policy being pursued by the present Israeli Government toward the Palestinian issue is wrong. Therefore, Begin must not forget that his country itself is a member of the United Nations and at the same time is continuing to challenge international law both by continuing to occupy Arab territory and by refusing to withdraw from this territory. This is in addition to violating the human rights of the Arab citizen in this territory and adopting terrorist acts of violence which are incompatible with the fact that the state which is doing such things is a member of the international community.

Therefore, when he said that Israel must take measures to defend its peoples so that women and children can live in peace, the Israeli prime minister should have remembered that there is another people, deprived even of the right of living, and that granting this people their rights will achieve a secure and peaceful life for all under a comprehensive peaceful settlement, for whose achievement Egypt has put the door wide open.

AL-AHRAM Editor's Comment

LD142050Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Chief editor Hamdi al-Jammal article: "Expansion in Right and Not in Territory"]

[Text] Perhaps the incident that took place in Tel Aviv the day before yesterday will confirm for Mr Menahem Begin a fact which is quite clear and which has escaped him--that the security of Israel and the Israelis does not lie in territorial expansion, but basically depends on expanding what is right.

Perhaps this incident will also drive home for Mr Begin what we insist upon here--that ending the Arab-Israeli conflict will not be achieved without solving the problem of the Palestinian people.

As Israel boasts through its leaders that it is so powerful militarily that it can repel any military attack on it, it has been unable to protect itself against a rubber dinghy that landed on its shores. The Israeli Navy with all its equipment and radar was unable to prevent the dinghy from reaching the shore and the fedayeen from landing and carrying out their operation inside Israel.

We now hear threats being reiterated in Israel warning of retaliation. It is possible that Israel will retaliate, for this has often happened before. But will retaliation give Israel a better opportunity to preserve its security?

Never. Retaliation will further generate hatred, and, therefore we will enter yet another vicious circle.

Mr Menahem Begin said that asking Israel to allow the establishment of a Palestinian state after this incident would be an insult to Israeli intelligence. In my opinion the opposite is true. This incident proves that Israel's insistence on refusing the establishment of a Palestinian state would be an insult to Israeli intelligence, because it means that Israeli politicians do not realize that the fedayeen carry out such operations in order to restore their rights and establish their state. The day such a state is established these operations will automatically stop.

We wish to hear one single reasonable voice raised in Israel to ask: Where does all this end? Does Mr Begin's intransigence insure security for the Israeli people and protect the lives of Israelis against such raids?

The real opportunity for peace that would insure real security for the people of Israel is now available for Israel, and the condition for implementing it is solving the problem of the Palestinian people. Without solving this problem the Israeli people will know neither security nor safety.

Land will not insure security for Israel and its people, nor will settlements protect Israel and its people from the fedayeen's attempts to restore their rights.

I put the blame for the lives that were lost in this operation on the Israeli policy Menahem Begin's government is pursuing, a policy that turns a blind eye to the realities of the conflict, ignores the road that leads it to the desired security and turns a deaf ear to the sincere and earnest words about just peace.

The Tel Aviv incident confirms to the Israel Government and people as well as to all the powers that support Begin's policy wherever they may be that military strength will not protect Israeli security.

Protecting Israeli security is possible only through one single strength--the strength of right and the strength of courage to recognize the right of others. No strength based on injustice and wrongdoing--however mighty--can protect the security of those who boast about such strength.

ANTI-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATION IN MOSCOW REPORTED

ID142100Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Moscow--News agencies--Demonstrations were staged yesterday before the Friendship House near the Kremlin in Moscow in protest against the Soviet leadership's support for the Palestinian resistance. The demonstrators carried placards denouncing the perpetrators of the Israeli bus incident.

It is understood that demonstrations in Moscow take place only with the approval and the permission of the Soviet authorities.

CYPRUS PRESIDENT MEETS WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL

NC150712Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Mar 78 WC

[Text] The Cyprus assize court will resume its hearing in Nicosia this morning of the martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i assassination case. The court continued its hearing yesterday and heard the testimony of nine witnesses for the prosecution.

Meanwhile, Cyprus President Spiros Kiprianou yesterday met with Mahdi 'Umar, the legal adviser of the Foreign Ministry, who is attending the trial of the two assassins of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i. The Cyprus president took the opportunity to express his strong desire to restore the cordial and traditional relations between the two countries.

CAIRO REPORTS AS-SADAT ARRIVAL IN BANI SUWAYF

NC141338 [Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1152 GMT on 14 March 1978, in a linkup with Cairo Voice of the Arabs, begins a live relay of President Anwar as-Sadat's arrival in the town of Bani Suwayf in Bani Suwayf Governorate. The announcer says that As-Sadat has already inaugurated some projects in the town of Al-Waqdah. At 1154 GMT the announcer says that As-Sadat has just reached the outskirts of the town of Bani Suwayf in an open car, accompanied by Vice President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Mamduh Salim. Cheers and applause are heard in the background. As the motorcade enters the town cheers of "we sacrifice our blood and life for you, As-Sadat," are heard repeatedly. Several announcers take turns in describing the event. As-Sadat, the announcer says, will lay the foundation stone of the new Bani Suwayf bridge. As-Sadat arrives at the bridge site at 1213 GMT. At 1215 GMT he lays the foundation stone. The bridge, according to the announcer, will be built by Arab contractors.

The president then leaves the site and his motorcade moves toward the Bani Suwayf Governorate building, arriving there at 1224 GMT. He then takes his place at the platform with Vice President Mubarak and Prime Minister Salim.

At 1226 GMT the governor of Bani Suwayf opens the ceremony by welcoming the president and gives a brief report on the governorate's achievements, saying that all the 1977 projects were implemented 100 percent. He reaffirms the governorate's faith in and support for President as-Sadat. He then talks about the governorate's poultry production and prices of meat and eggs. He then introduces an expert on animal husbandry, who explains some of the projects and work being done. Another expert talks about land reclamation plans. A ministry under secretary then talks about irrigation and drainage, and other general agriculture and development topics.

The governor then introduces a number of agricultural engineers who talk to the president about what they are doing and what is needed.

An unidentified speaker then takes the stand. He again welcomes As-Sadat and talks about Bani Suwayf's history of struggle and sacrifice. He mentions the fact that Egypt's first lady comes from Bani Suwayf. The same speaker reaffirms support for the president. The announcer later identifies the speaker as chairman of the local council. At 1311 GMT President As-Sadat begins his speech. As-Sadat's speech lasts for 5 minutes and at 1316 GMT he begins to chat with a number of officials and then at 1317 GMT begins to answer a number of questions put to him by news men in English on the recent fedayeen operation. The president, accompanied by Vice President Mubarak and Prime Minister Salim, leaves in an open car at 1323 and the relay ends at 1324 GMT.

As-Sadat Dialog With Agronomist

NC141554Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[President as-Sadat's dialog with agronomist Ahmad at ceremony in Bani Suwayf Governorate to welcome As-Sadat--live]

[Text] [As-Sadat] What do you want?

[Ahmad] We want buildings [words indistinct].

[As-Sadat] What else?

[Ahmad] I want loans for animal pens.

[As-Sadat] What else?

[Ahmad] Loans for [word indistinct] land and fallow land. The sum of 100 pounds has been allocated for fallow land and 50 pounds for [word indistinct] land.

[As-Sadat] Fifty pounds for the feddan.

[Ahmad] Fifty pounds for the feddan. We are prepared to take the sum and start producing.

[As-Sadat] You say 100 pounds for the fallow land?

[Ahmad] Yes, 100 pounds for the fallow land.

[As-Sadat] Ah, ah, ah, a loan of [word indistinct], a housing loan.

[Ahmad] Housing means buildings. A housing loan. What we want is a house.

[As-Sadat] Have you produced anything?

[Ahmad] We have produced. The feddan here produced 2 tons [word indistinct] and we flooded the market.

[As-Sadat] Two tons?

[Ahmad] Two tons. We flooded the market and we do not know how to distribute it. We export part of the produce to Cairo. We meet the market's full requirements [words indistinct]. We formed a cooperative society and we want to go ahead but we cannot.

[As-Sadat] As for your cooperative society, do you have tractors?

[Ahmad] We have tractors.

[As-Sadat] You have tractors.

[Ahmad] We have four tractors. We obtained second-hand tractors from [name indistinct] company.

[As-Sadat] You do not need tractors.

[Ahmad] No, they allocated a 10,000-pound loan for mechanization. We will buy eight tractors. The company loaned us tractors until we received the loan. [Words indistinct] We are working but we still need the buildings [words indistinct]. We got the cattle but there is no place to put them.

[As-Sadat] You should form a committee with the governor to consider priorities. I do not want everyone to build a villa.

[Ahmad] We do not want that.

[As-Sadat] I spoke about reconstruction and desertification but if everyone asks me for a villa, I will not be able to do anything.

[Ahmad] We do not want villas.

[As-Sadat] What is required is that production should start. I am happy that you have cultivated 1,000 feddans on your land and that you have started production, which is bringing you an income. You probably heard me saying in the canal area that we want there to be a village in the center of each project which will provide services. There will be a doctor, a veterinarian and an agronomist. All of you are agronomists. There will also be tractors in this village. You have tractors. The village will also have a small bank to provide loans and so forth. Does each one of you live on his own land or do you live together on one piece of land which you intend to convert into a small city?

[Ahmad] No. Each of us can live on a piece of land. All of our arrangements are temporary. We want something permanent.

[As-Sadat] I prefer to see each one living on his own land. The village will serve as a center. Such a village, which I spoke of in Suez, should be established in each land reclamation project. Suez asked the bank for a loan of 100,000 pounds from the money which belongs to Port Said to set up such a village center. The people of Suez will get the loan and they will keep the 100,000 pounds until they are able to pay it back. Is this enough?

As-Sadat Speech

NC141440Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1310 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Speech delivered by President as-Sadat at Bani Suwayf Governorate building--live]

[Test] I am indeed very happy to meet with you. The chairman of the local council spoke about my stay among you under circumstances when I was truly avoiding the authorities because, as you know, I had at that time just escaped from detention and from prison. I refer to Bani Suwayf and its eastern bank in particular. I am happy that I have the opportunity today [to visit you].

It never occurred to me when I was here 30 years ago that a moment would come to give the signal for linking the west with the east. I thank God that this has been done. I was happier still when I heard that the generation of pioneers among my sons who will own the land, begin the desertification and build Egypt's future has started its work here. Egypt's future lies in production and desertification.

My visit is not actually how you would have wanted it to be. I only wanted to visit you, as the chairman of the council said, in your capacity as relatives [applause], and, being close to me, I took shelter and lived with you during difficult times. [applause] I hope you will convey all my love and admiration to all the inhabitants of Bani Suwayf--every man and woman--who spontaneously came out today without any preparations to meet me. I cannot express or respond to these sentiments which have really filled me with pride in you. We must prepare for the next visit, God willing, to discuss what the governor and chairman of the council have raised in order that Bani Suwayf may occupy its right place. I pray to God that this will take place soon, God willing. [applause]

I am very happy, as I told you, that the generation of pioneers among my sons should begin here. I will personally follow up this experiment, and I hope that all of you will follow it up in order that we may build the future Egypt--Egypt up to the year 2000--for our sons, grandchildren and future generations, God willing. I thank you with all my heart and wish you success. Peace be with you. [applause]

Further Dialog With Agronomist

NC141555Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1316 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[President as-Sadat's dialog with agronomist Ahmad at Bani Suwayf Governorate to welcome As-Sadat--live]

[Text] [As-Sadat] You must begin a small poultry unit.

[Ahmad] We have actually started such a unit.

[As-Sadat] I hope that I will be able to come soon, God willing, to personally see what you have done. As I told you, let us not cling to appearances and forget production. No, let us begin with production and let the turn of appearances come after production and after we actually feel that the efforts, sacrifices and sweat have produced results. [passage indistinct]

AL-AHRAM REPORTS AS-SADAT CBS INTERVIEW

NC141200Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has stated that the United States saved Israel from defeat during the October 1973 war. He also said that Henry Kissinger, then U.S. secretary of state, had told him that the Pentagon "would strike your attacking forces because it would never allow Soviet weapons to triumph over U.S. weapons again."

In an hour-long interview, which was broadcast over the CBS network yesterday [as received] and which the newspaper AL-AHRAM publishes today, President as-Sadat said that he had expelled the Soviet experts from Egypt because the Soviets wanted him to be their agent in the Middle East and "we are not going to be agents for them or for anyone else."

President as-Sadat said it would probably have been easier to reach a peaceful settlement through negotiations if Henry Kissinger were still the U.S. secretary of state or if Golda Meir or Moshe Dayan were the prime minister of Israel. He said he is sorry to make such public observations about Henry Kissinger but he and Kissinger would have been able to reach a settlement in a matter of 3 weeks.

President as-Sadat said that Vance, Kissinger's successor to the post of U.S. secretary of state, is a dear friend of ours. He is an honest person, very honest, indeed, but the question is one of approach and Vance is following a different approach. When asked whether Gold Meir could have made a greater effort to stimulate the peace talks if these talks had begun during her era, President as-Sadat said: I am sorry to say "yes." This may annoy Menahem Begin but I say "yes."

President as-Sadat said that prior to his visit to Jerusalem Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu had told him that Menahem Begin was a man who is searching for peace. President as-Sadat's initiative came immediately after that. President as-Sadat added that he had recently paid Ceausescu another visit. Ceausescu advised President as-Sadat to be patient. President as-Sadat said: I follow an old German maxim: Patience brings roses.

President as-Sadat said that Kissinger had warned him that the United States would intervene directly if Egypt tried to destroy the Israeli armored corps in the Sinai desert during the October war.

President as-Sadat refuted the analyses that Israel could have defeated Egypt if the war had lasted longer. He said: I asked Kissinger what the U.S. attitude would be if I used Soviet weapons to destroy the Israeli armored attack. Kissinger answered immediately that he did not need to go back to the President or to the Pentagon on this question. He told President as-Sadat that "the Pentagon would strike you because it will never allow Soviet weapons to triumph over U.S. weapons again. The Pentagon will strike you, and very severely."

President as-Sadat said that the United States saved Israel from defeat during the war. The president also said that he had expelled the Soviet experts from Egypt because the Soviets wanted him to be their agent in the Middle East. The president added that he cannot play the role of an agent, either for the Soviets or for anyone else.

President as-Sadat said that if his peace initiative fails, he will have the courage to go to the Egyptian parliament to submit his resignation and to say that he has miscalculated.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES OGADEN WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

NC141600Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Ahmad 'Uthman today received the Soviet ambassador in Cairo and conveyed to him Egypt's views in light of Somalia's decision to withdraw its regular forces from the Ogaden area. This decision has opened the door for an African settlement of the problem within the framework of the OAU. This meeting is within the framework of Egyptian activity to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Horn of Africa and part of Egypt's efforts with the parties concerned.

ATH-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH PRAISE TEL AVIV OPERATION

JN141223Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 March--The ATH-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH newspapers here today described the heroic operation carried out by Arab fedayeen in occupied Palestine last Saturday as being a revolutionary reply to the defeatist and capitulatory logic being promoted by the capitulatory regimes. The operation strengthens the role of the Arab gun in its firm opposition to the shameful settlements with the enemy.

ATH-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party, says that the escalation of fedayeen operations inside the occupied Arab territories reflects the Arab masses firm refusal to submit or surrender to defeatist attempts being exerted by the capitulatory regimes to end the state of war with the Zionist enemy, at the expense of the land and the Palestinian Arab citizen. The paper adds: The operation also reflects the cohesion and the rallying of the masses in the occupied Arab territories around the Palestinian revolution on its struggle course for the liberation of Palestine, all of Palestine.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: The fedayeen operations and the escalation of the struggle of the masses in the occupied homeland are the real reply to As-Sadat's attempts to distort the stand of the masses in the occupied Arab territories and are also a decisive rejection of his treacherous initiative with the Zionist enemy. They are also an affirmation that the exclusion of As-Sadat's regime from the pan-Arab battle does not mean at all security and stability for the Zionist enemy, for the Arab masses are stronger than any treacherous agent regime, and they are capable of continuing the struggle alone until liberation.

The paper further says: If the occupied Arab territories have witnessed an escalation of the masses' opposition to the Zionist occupation after the As-Sadat trip of shame, then the recent fedayeen operations come to crown the Arab masses' struggle activities in the occupied homeland. Despite the years of fascist occupation, these masses firmly reject the mere thinking about the possibility of coexistence with the Zionist enemy.

ATH-THAWRAH stresses that the road to the liberation of Palestine is long and difficult, but our Arab masses, who have proved their capacity for steadfastness--a steadfastness which leads to victory--during their hard struggle, are now more capable than at any time before to continue with the struggle until liberation. They will not be dissuaded from this objective by those who are panting after imperialism or by the inability of others to continue the struggle.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The courageous and heroic battle carried out by Arab fedayeen in occupied Palestine last Saturday proves that fedayeen action is still capable of reaching strategic targets and striking at the depth of occupied Palestine and that the armed struggle method remains the best method used by Palestinians. It will remain so until the liberation of all usurped Palestinian soil.

The paper adds: The operation implies a number of vital signs which stress once again that the Palestinian cause is the crux of what is called the Middle East crisis and that the key to the crisis has been and will remain in the hands of the Palestinian masses carrying the gun. The paper further says: Neither the As-Sadat initiative, nor the U.S. efforts, Zionist terrorism nor anything else is capable of wresting the reigns of the true initiative from the hands of the Palestinian Arab people.

The paper explains that the operation by the martyr Kamal 'Udwan group has revealed to certain wavering and conciliatory leaders within the Palestinian revolution the fact that the language of the revolutionary gun will remain the only language with which one can deal with the Zionist terrorist entity. To paralyze the effect of the gun for any reason will only serve the conspiratorial plots and will constitute blatant deviation from the will of the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab masses.

The paper stresses that the way to strengthen the role of the Palestinian gun must be, first and foremost, a reiteration of the decisive rejection of all the stages and details of capitulatory settlement, in the forefront of which are the UN Security Council Resolutions adopted as a basis for this settlement.

DEPORTED PALESTINIAN STUDENTS ARRIVE IN BAGHDAD

JN141533Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 March--The second group of Palestinian students expelled from the Egyptian University of Asyut by the As-Sadat authorities arrived in Baghdad today. One of the seven students who arrived today, Sulayman Muhammad Rajab, a student at Asyut University, said that the As-Sadat authorities broke into their apartments at dawn and took them to Al-Qal'ah Prison in Cairo. They were put in isolation cells where they were severely tortured and deeply humiliated. The As-Sadat agents would fire at random around them to scare them and talked derisively about the Palestinian cause, the student added.

The student said that one of the officers responsible for their torture informed them that he had orders to kill them. The student said that the authorities later transferred them to At-Tarashil Prison where they were put with criminals and convicts.

The deported students said that the Cairo University students are living in a state of fear because of the continued terrorism by the As-Sadat authorities.

Tariq Habib Buraysim, a graduate student at Cairo University, and his family also arrived in Baghdad today. The authorities broke into his apartment several times and finally expelled him from Egypt.

The first group, also seven students, arrived in Baghdad yesterday.

BRIEFS

CUBAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Baghdad, 12 March--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received here today Juan Carretero Ibanez, who presented his credentials as the Cuban ambassador to Iraq. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN]

SAUDI AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Baghdad, 12 March--Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf received here today Saudi Ambassador in Baghdad Shaykh Ahmad al-Kunaymi, who presented his credentials as his country's ambassador to Iraq. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1022 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN]

AR-RA'Y COMMENTS ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

JN150702Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Senseless Situation," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: Today, and after Israel has given a carte blanche to its government to carry out reprisals to the extent of annihilation, the Begin government began sending its forces inside Lebanese territory.

The paper says: Thus the forthcoming meeting between the U.S. President and Menahem Begin, which was delayed for 1 week, will be the last chance for the U.S. administration to prove whether it can persuade Israel to change its position radically in line with the requirements of achieving just and lasting peace in the region. Otherwise, the region, which today is witnessing Israel's reprisal, will again go back to actions and counteractions until these culminate in the disaster which King Husayn has warned of on many occasions and which will be unavoidable if Israel continues to occupy Arab territory and to ignore the geographic and human presence of the Palestinians.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON POSSIBLE ISRAELI RETALIATION

JN140748Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Editorials in the local press center on the Israeli threats to retaliate against the Tel Aviv operation.

AD-DUSTUR says: The real lesson of which Israeli leadership should be convinced, without stubbornness or arrogance, is that internal security cannot be achieved by revenge and bloodshed. If all the sophisticated electronic warning systems, gunboats, and frogmen were not able to provide Israel with secure borders and coasts, is this not the time for the Israeli leadership to be prudent and to realize that peace alone, and not arms, is capable of providing Israel with secure borders?

Schoolchildren and reservists in Israel had previously beseeched Begin not to waste the peace opportunity on the pretext of preserving their safety. Begin, perhaps, will remember these voices now and will avoid undertaking any irresponsible act of revenge but will go back to the peace road.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACK

NC150633Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has made the following statement on the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon:

On the basis of what logic does Israel hold Lebanon responsible for what happened last Saturday near Tel Aviv? If Israel is looking for a scapegoat in the form of a weak country like Lebanon, the whole world will condemn it most strongly. This attack comes when Lebanon still has not recovered from the effects of the worst tribulation in its history--a tribulation hardly suffered by any other country in the world. Israel was not originally a stranger to the causes of this tribulation.

As for the abnormal situation in southern Lebanon, the area which is the target of the oppressive Israeli attack, Israel itself is more responsible for it than any other party. It was Israel which prevented the Arab deterrent forces from entering it to establish security there and restore the legitimate authority there. We denounce this unjustified aggression which no law or principle condones, and we appeal to the world states to stand by us in condemning this aggression and in seeking to put an end to it.

Has not Lebanon had enough tragedies for this Israeli aggression to inflict new wounds on it?

OFFICIALS HOLD CONTACTS ON ISRAELI ATTACK

NC150816Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The news of the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon has received maximum attention from all government circles. The officials have followed the development and succession of events. Contacts have been underway at the presidential palace, the prime minister's office, and the Chamber of Deputies headquarters to study the situation closely.

At 0845 today President Sarkis chaired a meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense Fu'ad Butrus, to discuss the developments in the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense Butrus said before going to the presidential palace that the Lebanese officials began contacts with the various parties as soon as the Israeli attack began. He added that these contacts will continue today to do all that is necessary to protect the Lebanese people and territory.

Southern Deputies Summoned

NC151018Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad has invited the deputies of the southern province to a meeting to be held at 1200 tomorrow, Thursday, to discuss the situation in the south.

Cabinet Discusses Attack

NC150914Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Contacts have been in progress since this morning to discuss the situation resulting from the Israeli attack on the border areas of southern Lebanon.

At 1000 today President Ilyas Sarkis chaired the cabinet's chaired the cabinet's weekly session attended by the prime minister and the other ministers. The president earlier presided over a meeting attended by Prime Minister al-Huss and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus to discuss the Israeli attack.

At 1020 Minister Fu'ad Butrus left the cabinet meeting and went to the Foreign Ministry. Addressing reporters he said: I have met with the president and the prime ministers and we have agreed on the plan of action. The president of the republic has briefed the cabinet on the situation. I am now going to the Foreign Ministry to hold contacts and take the necessary measures. Minister Butrus confirmed that he will summon a number of ambassadors and that the cabinet is continuing its discussion of the Israeli attack.

Al-Huss Makes Statement

NC151133Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1117 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The cabinet session which was held in B'abda Palace ended a short time ago. After the meeting Prime Minister Dr al-Huss made the following statement: The discussions at the cabinet meeting were confined to the question of the south. The foreign minister is holding contacts with the representatives of the Security Council's member states and with the representatives of other states. The appropriate decision will be adopted in light of the contacts.

In the meantime the cabinet has decided to successively notify the Security Council about what is taking place regarding the south. Asked whether Lebanon will ask the Security Council to convene, the prime minister said: I said that this will be decided in light of the contacts which the foreign minister is holding with the representatives of the various states. However, until we reach this decision, it has been decided to successively inform the Security Council of what is happening.

Sarkis Makes Statement

NC151204Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have learned that the cabinet meeting ended at 1300. As we have already said, the president briefed the cabinet on the information available on the Israeli attack that has been in progress in the south in retaliation for the Palestinian fedayeen operation near Tel Aviv last Saturday.

His excellency said that the Israeli military operations on Lebanese territory constitute a violation of international principles and of the rights of Lebanon and its people. These operations are unjustified because everyone knows that Lebanon was not the cause of the incident which brought about these military actions. Everyone also knows that it is Israel which has continuously made it impossible for Lebanon to bring Arab security forces to the south to maintain the presence of the Lebanese authority in the south, to provide reassurance for its people who have vacated their homes and property to enable them to return, and to put an end to all the excesses and violations of the law and to contribute to maintaining security and order.

President Sarkis added: We are carrying out the necessary studies, contacts and efforts for the safety of the homeland and its people. Lebanon, which has always opposed all forms and kinds of violence, is confident that the world conscience will be on its side and on the side of what is right.

Ministers Discuss Situation

NC151048Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1034 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have just received the following:

The ministers of housing, health, social affairs and public works are now meeting at the presidential palace to discuss the situation resulting from the Israeli attack on the south and to adopt decisions regarding immediate relief work and providing the necessary assistance.

The health minister has asked all the doctors and employees of the Sidon hospital to go immediately to their assigned posts to provide the necessary medical services. Anyone who fails to do so will be severely punished. Meanwhile, the governor of the south has called on all the employees of the Sidon government hospital, including doctors and auxiliary personnel, to report to their assigned posts immediately.

Butrus Receives Ambassadors

NC151231Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 1100 today, Foreign Minister Butrus began a series of intensive diplomatic contacts and consultations with the ambassadors of the five great powers, regarding the Israeli attack on Lebanon. At 1100, he received the British ambassador to Lebanon, Peter Wakefield, who said after the meeting: We discussed the question of the south. The ambassador declined to answer a question on whether Minister Butrus handed him a message. He said only: No comment.

The foreign minister met afterwards with the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, Aleksandr Soldatov. The following dialog took place between the ambassador and newsmen after the meeting:

[Question] Israel has accused the Soviet Union of sending Soviet arms and equipment to the south. Is this true?

[Answer] This is definitely untrue. The Soviet Union has not sent arms to Lebanon or to any other side.

[Question] Has Minister Butrus handed you a specific memorandum for your government?

[Answer] We reviewed the current situation in general with Minister Butrus.

[Question] Does the Soviet Union propose an invitation to the Security Council to convene?

[Answer] This question should be put to the Lebanese foreign minister.

[Question] Israel said today that it found Soviet and East German experts in the south. Is this correct?

[Answer] This is balderdash and is completely baseless. I can confirm that neither the Soviet Union nor any other socialist state has any experts in the south.

[Question] Will the Soviet Union give any immediate aid to the inhabitants of the south after the aggression?

[Answer] The Soviet Union's stand [word indistinct] contained in official statements. I do not have to reiterate our stands in support of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. The Lebanese must solve their problems. We are always against aggression, particularly the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

Minister Butrus later received French Ambassador to Lebanon Hubert Argod. After the meeting Ambassador Argod said that the discussions centered on the new incident which took place on the borders this morning. He added: We exchanged views on this matter. We will remain in touch with our government to watch and follow up the developments. He denied that Minister Butrus handed him a message for his government.

Asked if there is a specific Lebanese demand, the ambassador said: We will continue the contacts to exchange views between our two governments.

Minister Butrus then received the U.S. ambassador, Richard Parker.

U.S. Contacted on Security Council

NC151058Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1045 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Following a Lebanese contact with the United States to determine whether it favors a call to the Security Council to convene or not, it has been learned that the United States does not support the idea and favors the submission of a complaint only.

UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has been following the progress of the battles since early this morning. He is in continuous contact with the UN chief observer, who is now in Jerusalem.

Syrian Officials in Contact

NC151112Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Syria is watching with extreme anxiety and interest the Israeli concentrated attack on southern Lebanon. Senior Syrian officials are in continuous contact with the Lebanese authorities to obtain from them detailed and accurate information regarding the Israeli attack.

OFFICIALS MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AID, SHELTER

NC151234Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] The cabinet has decided to form a ministerial committee to deal with the various social, medical, food and other aspects of the situation resulting from the attack. The ministerial committee immediately assumed its duties.

Assembly Centers Set Up

NC151236Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1159 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have just learned that the ministerial committee has decided to set up assembly centers for the evacuees. The aim of this is to provide the necessary services for them, especially temporary shelter in tents, distribution of blankets, food and necessary medical care.

The committee has contacted the governor of the south and asked him to choose the areas for setting up the assembly centers within the next 24 hours. The interior minister has asked all the ministry's employees in the south to place themselves at the disposal of the governor in view of the present critical circumstances. The committee has called on all the evacuees to go to these assembly centers so that they will be provided with aid immediately.

Meanwhile, the health and public works ministers have asked all the employees of these ministries in the south to continue their work beyond the official working hours and to place themselves at the disposal of the governor of the south.

Finally, the Civil Defense Directorate calls on all its employees to proceed to their posts immediately.

Health Minister Gives Instructions

NC151125V Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Minister of Public Health Dr Ibrahim Shu'aytu has, in view of the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon, instructed all government and private hospitals to admit all cases without exception, provided that the Medical Care Directorate of the Health Ministry is notified within 24 hours of admittance of the patient or the wounded so that the necessary cards are issued to enable treatment at the expense of the Health Ministry. The health minister urged all hospitals to respond to this request under the present circumstances.

Citizens are called upon to play the role required of them in these critical circumstances and to donate some blood to the operating hospitals which are receiving all cases at the health minister's request.

UN OBSERVERS IN SOUTH REPORT TO UNITED NATIONS

NC150655V Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The UN observers stationed in five positions along the Lebanese-Israeli borders have begun reporting to the United Nations what they have been able to observe. Reports state that the observers were afraid and that they had taken cover for a short period of time to avoid being exposed to any shelling. On past occasions they had been exposed to fragments from rounds and some of them had been wounded.

ISRAELI ATTACK ON SOUTHERN LEBANON REPORTED

NC150449Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] After midnight last night the Israeli forces launched a large-scale attack on southern Lebanon, supported by armor and planes. The aggression began on four major axes covering Bint Jubayl, At-Tayyibah and the Tyre district.

In an urgent dispatch at dawn today, APP says that the Israeli attack covered 40 km and covered the Litani River. The first indication of the Israeli attack came from Washington where a diplomatic source said the Israeli forces launched an attack on southern Lebanon. The American CBS network carried the first report of the aggression to the world, citing sources in the American capital and other places. It said that large numbers of Israeli forces were moving toward southern Lebanon and toward the ports of Sidon and Tyre.

A U.S. State Department spokesman and a Pentagon spokesman affirmed that they had no knowledge of the attack, but a source close to the U.S. Government admitted later that Israel launched a massive attack on southern Lebanon. Meanwhile, sources close to the U.S. Government have expressed fears that the operation may continue for some time.

An authoritative source in Tel Aviv has admitted the attack but did not specify where the attack took place. Israeli radio, however, announced in Hebrew at 0500 this morning that the attack covered Bint Jubayl, Marun ar-Ra's, Yarin, At-Tayyibah, Al-Khiyam, and Rashayya al-Fukhkhah. The radio, quoting an Israeli military spokesman, said that army units supported by heavy armor and the air force and artillery had launched an attack on the places where there are Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

In a dispatch from Tel Aviv, UPI says the Israeli operation is the biggest by the Israeli forces since the 1973 October war. It said that the Israeli forces did not launch their attack along the entire Lebanese border yesterday because of bad weather.

The BBC in its first newscast this morning estimated that the Israeli attacking forces number about 32,000 troops.

0515 GMT Report

NC150557Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 0100 today, more than 30,000 Israeli soldiers supported by artillery and aircraft attacked Bint Jubayl, Marun ar-Ra's, Rashayya al-Fukhkhah and Al-Khiyam. The Israeli operations covered all the railroads and Al-'Urquq. The planes dropped flares in the most extensive operation since the 1973 war. Landing operations from the sea were then carried out on the shore of Tyre and opposite Sidon and Ad-Damur [as heard]. Observers said that these forces have not yet opened fire but that it appears they are in a state of readiness to support the other forces which, according to an Israeli spokesman, are still carrying out the search operations in the south, which began at 0200 today. The Israeli spokesman said that the Israeli forces have not opened fire on the Arab deterrent forces, Lebanese Army or innocent civilians and that Israel wants to (?destroy) all the fedayeen bases in southern Lebanon because they have always constituted a danger to its security and safety, as was proved by what happened along the Haifa-Tel Aviv road last Saturday.

The Israeli forces have entered on five axes so far and penetrated deep into southern Lebanon. The correspondents say that the Israeli Government has imposed a strict news censorship. The losses among both sides are not precisely known. The artillery and aircraft continue their bombardment and strafing and the tanks are advancing in the areas of Al-Khiyam, Yarin and Ibl as-Saqi. Israeli boats and ships can be seen in the sea at a distance of 7 miles from Tyre. These boats and ships have bombarded Ar-Rashidiyyah camp near Tyre.

The PLO statements have referred to this large-scale attack. Observers expect PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to appeal to the Arab states to support the PLO forces in southern Lebanon in the face of this large-scale attack, which is still continuing.

An Israeli spokesman said a while ago that the Israeli army forces (?are concentrating) along the southern Lebanese coast and that they have not yet opened fire.

0527 GMT Report

NC150703Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0527 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] According to reports we received a short while ago, the Israeli forces have reached a place known as the Al-Litani Bridge, that Israeli boats have opened fire on armed groups in Sidon and that Israeli aircraft continue to bomb the suburbs of the Tyre, Al-'Urqub area and the central sector. Aircraft can be seen flying sorties over Sidon and turning south in the direction of the Tyre area. It appears that the Israeli forces will attempt to place the area between the jaws of the pincers.

Reports indicate that the Palestinian forces have mined the bridges to prevent Israeli tanks from crossing. The reports add that losses are heavy, particularly in the Tyre area. The battles are continuing.

The Lebanese Cabinet has decided to advance the time fixed for holding its session this morning. The foreign minister has held urgent contacts with the ambassadors of the big powers in Beirut. The American ambassador has been summoned to the presidential palace this morning.

We heard about 5 minutes ago that the Israeli boats opened artillery fire in the direction of Tyre Port and that the air and artillery shelling all along the border and the central sector is intensifying.

0815 GMT Report

NC150834Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The fighting is continuing all along the Lebanese-Israeli borders. Israeli army forces have penetrated deep into the south, supported by tanks and Phantom and Skyhawk warplanes. Warships are at a distance of approximately 5 miles all along the southern coast.

Israeli Defense Minister Weizman said about 20 minutes ago that these military operations will continue until southern Lebanon is purged from the Palestinian saboteurs, as he described them. The Palestinian resistance command continues to issue statements on the battle emphasizing that the Israeli Air Force has carried out more than 30 sorties without achieving any noticeable success.

0818 GMT Report

NC150821Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0818 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] It has just been reported that Al-Khiyam, An-Naqurah, Yarin, Ibl as-Saqi and Bint Jubayl have fallen into the hands of the Israeli forces and that the battles are continuing.

0930 GMT Report

NC150948Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The battles in the south are continuing and hand-to-hand combat is taking place in some villages. The Israeli forces have advanced in the direction of western Al-Biqat [district]. They are also continuing their advance in the south on all axes.

Al-Khiyam, Bint Jubayl, Yarin, Marun ar-Ra's and Ibl as-Saqi have fallen to the Israeli forces. Reports say that sound of gunfire is heard almost throughout the entire southern area up to the borders of An-Nabatiyah. The Israeli forces have entered the borders of western Al-Biqa' from the Al-Litani direction.

1000 GMT Report

NC151017Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] According to the latest military information, the shelling of the areas of Al-'Urqub and Rashayya al-Fukhkhar is continuing and Qulay'ah in the western Al-Biqa' [district], An-Nabatiyah and Al-'Izziyah have fallen into the hands of the Israelis. The Israeli forces have advanced inside Bint Jubayl. The battles are now taking place in (As-Suri), Mas'ud and Sa'din. The inhabitants of the city of Tyre have been evacuated. There are 35 dead.

1025 GMT Report

NC151032Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1025 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Palestinians have announced that the Israelis have entered At-Tayyibah area after violent battles and that Ibl as-Saqi fell 10 minutes ago.

An Israeli landing has taken place on the Al-'Urqub axis. Violent battles are now taking place along a Palestinian supplies route.

1050 GMT Report

NC151110Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1050 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] According to the reports from the south, violent battles are continuing in the border areas and the sound of gunfire is heard from Sidon city.

In Cairo, an Egyptian official has stated that Egypt will do its utmost to prevent the deterioration of the situation in the area as a result of the Israeli attack. The Egyptian official expressed fear lest the military operation obstruct the Egyptian peace initiative.

The military leaders of the various Palestinian groups are now meeting in one of the Palestinian camps in Beirut under the chairmanship of 'Arafat. Palestinian sources denied that Ad-Damur city was shelled.

Beirut Radio Summary 1130 GMT

NC151210Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Until midday today, it is possible to sum up the military situation in southern Lebanon as follows:

1. Clashes are continuing on the various axes.
2. Clashes are still going on in the area south of Tyre, where Israeli forces landed in the areas close to Al-Hinnayah and the camps of Ar-Rashidiyah and Al-Basta.
3. The Israeli attack is continuing on the An-Naqurah-Tyre axis. The attacks are now concentrated south of Al-Bayadah.

On the Bint Jubayl axis, the fighting is still going on inside the town and the areas around Marun ar-Ra's.

On the At-Tayyibah-Al-Qantarah axis, tank and artillery battles are taking place. The fighting spread to the heights around At-Tayyibah.

On the Marj 'Uyun axis, the clashes continued in the areas of Tallat Naqqar, the Burqush Triangle, Tallat Balat, and Ibl as-Saqi, the Suq al-Khan Heights, and Rashayya al-Fukhkhar.

4. The Israeli attempts to penetrate the fighting axes supported by fighter aircraft continue. Israeli planes attacked various axes, particularly between 0900-100 today.

Palestinians Build Bridge

NC141758Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Reports from the south today affirm that the Palestinians erected a land bridge 4 days ago near the townships of Qulay'ah and (Iufiya), which are near the Al-Litani River. The reports point out that the bridge connects Al-Biqa' area with the south area and Jazzin. The bridge has been erected by the Palestinians to facilitate movement between the two areas and to enable them to move equipment and heavy weapons from the south to Al-Biqa' and vice versa.

INA Reports on Attack

JN150755Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--Zionist forces at dawn today crossed the Lebanese southern areas and launched a naval, ground and air attack in which 30,000 soldiers participated, supported by tanks and armor on four axes in the western, central and eastern sectors. Enemy war boats carried out landing operations near the main southern ports and on the coastal strip between Sidon and Tyre.

At 0130 today, enemy forces began to shell Bint Jubayl in the central sector at the time when other troops were advancing along the other axes toward Marun ar-Ra's, Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and Al-Khiyam, the main approaches to the Al-'Urqu strategic area.

WAPA reports that the Zionist forces at 2300 last night entered certain areas controlled by the rightist forces in Rumaysh, 'Ayn Ibil and Al-Qulay'ah prior to the large-scale storming operation with armor, infantry and air force, using flares over all the southern areas.

The INA correspondent in the south said that fierce battles have been raging since midnight last night all along the southern coast from An-Naqurah to Tyre. The correspondent said that Ar-Rashidiyah camp, near Tyre, today was exposed to intensive air shelling. Battles are still raging between the joint forces and the Zionist forces which were landed on the coast near Al-'Izziyah, 9 km south of Tyre and around Al-Hinniyah town. At 0700 today, enemy air force shelled the Tyre military barracks and the Buru ash-Shimali camp. Enemy boats shelled the coastal town of As-Sarafano. The enemy boats tried to approach the islands near Sidon, but the joint forces' fire forced them to retreat. In the central and eastern sectors, where enemy vehicles and tanks advanced, confrontation battles are now raging around Bint Jubayl in the central sector and Al-Khiyam in the eastern sector.

A Palestinian spokesman has summed up the military situation up to 0630 this morning. He said that the Zionist enemy began his attack at 0100 today with artillery and rocket shelling all along the border line with Lebanon, from An-Naqurah in the west and Rashayya al-Fukhkar in the east. Enemy planes intervened after 30 minutes.

The spokesman said that the enemy at 2030 today sent in several armored brigades supported by fighter planes along five axes. They are: Marj 'Uyun-Al-Khiyam, (Al-'Adasiyaah)-At-Tayyibah, Varin-Tayr Harfa, An-Naqurah-Tyre and Bint Jubayl-Marun ar-Ra's. The spokesman added that the enemy managed to land naval forces following a violent confrontation battle near Tyre in Al-'Izziyah and al-Hinniyah towns, where fierce battles are still raging. He said that the joint forces have been reinforced to prevent Zionist forces from setting up a bridge on the coast.

At 0500 this morning the enemy sent in additional forces to the fighting axes, backed by more tanks, vehicles, planes and heavy artillery. The battles were still continuing at 0700. The Palestinian military spokesman said that despite his intensive attack and the lapse of 8 hours since the beginning of his all-out operation, the enemy has not been able to achieve any successes worth mentioning.

Zionist enemy sorties have increased to 30, carried out by fighter planes of the Phantom and Skyhawk types. Artillery and missile fire also continues. The Palestinian spokesman said that the joint forces are resisting the enemy forces on all axes with bravery and high morale and that they have succeeded in destroying a number of enemy vehicles and inflicting scores of casualties, both dead and wounded, among enemy forces, especially when repulsing the enemy landing at the village of Al-'Izziyah, near Tyre.

Up till 0930 today, the joint forces had managed to wipe out a large part of the Zionist marines who were landed on the southern coast around Al-'Izziyah and Al-Hinniyah, near Tyre. The Palestinian military spokesman said that the joint forces are now controlling the main road linking the two villages with Tyre. The joint forces also control the road between An-Naqurah and Al-Bayyadah, north of the village.

Battles are still in progress with various weapons in At-Tayyibah village, which was stormed by the enemy forces at dawn today. The enemy air force is unable to intervene because the battles are raging at short distances.

In Tyre the joint forces' ground resistance is confronting the enemy planes as well as his boats, which are trying to shell the town and the adjacent Palestinian camps.

In the central sector the joint forces are fighting bravely in defense of the town of Bint Jubayl; they are engaging the Zionist forces in the streets of the town.

In the eastern sector and the Al-'Urquq area, sources of the joint forces have confirmed that fierce clashes are continuing on all axes and with all weapons.

Since this morning the enemy air force has been launching continuous raids on Rashayya al-Fukhkar and the other nationalist positions. Enemy artillery is bombarding the interior areas of 'Arrun, An-Nabatiyah, Al-Jurmuq and Qal'at ash-Shaqif.

Joint Forces Claim Success

NC150825Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 15 March--The Palestinian revolution forces and the joint Lebanese forces have repulse a wide-scale aggression which the Israeli forces launched against southern Lebanon at dawn today. This prompted the enemy to seek the support of the air force and artillery to resume its attack, which is continuing.

The general command of the Palestinian revolution forces has issued a military statement saying that the joint forces have obstructed the advance of the Israeli forces from 0400 to 0530 today on the axes of An-Naaurah, Bint Jubayl, At-Tayyibah and Rabb ath-Thalathin, inflicting losses among the enemy's forces. The statement adds that following this the enemy forces regrouped to resume their operations, backed by artillery and aircraft fire, and that the fighting is continuing.

INA: Israelis Strafe Ad-Damur

JN151214Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--The Zionist enemy expanded his military operations in southern Lebanon this afternoon. Enemy planes and gunboats bombarded the town of Ad-Damur, 15 km south of Beirut, and the Palestinian concentrations in the town.

The shelling was still in progress at 1330 today.

INA: Israelis Shell Sabra Camp

JN151221Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1219 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--The Zionist enemy started to shell Sabra camp in Beirut this afternoon. Formations of the enemy planes were seen strafing the camp. Explosions were heard all over the Lebanese capital. The ground resistance confronted the planes and forced them to fly at high altitude.

NEWSMEN CROWD BEIRUT; SOUTH LEBANON TENSE

JN141112Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 March--Some 50 foreign correspondents have arrived in Beirut during the last 3 days to cover the possible developments in the area. Observers linked this arrival of correspondents with the Zionist threats to strike against Lebanon in retaliation for the operation the fedayeen carried out in the occupied territories. The observers believe that it is likely that the Zionist enemy may launch a large-scale military aggression against Lebanon.

Arrivals from the south today said that the Zionist enemy continues to mass his troops along the border lines and opposite the coastal township of An-Naaurah and Shab'a and Kafr Shuba in Al-'Urqub. Enemy boats have been coming close to the southern coast from Sidon to An-Naaurah. Enemy helicopters are flying over the entire border area. The arrivals also pointed out that the traffic in the various southern areas has almost come to a standstill and the schools have been closed for the second day running as a precaution against any Zionist aggression.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC141310Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, Fu'ad Butrus, has met with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Parker for 1 hour. Following the meeting, the U.S. ambassador replied to reporters' questions as to the nature of the discussions, saying: We exchanged information on the latest incident and, naturally, we are holding continuous contacts with all parties. I have no statement or comment to make other than the U.S. statement which was issued yesterday. Asked about the U.S. stand concerning Israeli threats to Lebanon, he referred the newsmen to the U.S. statement issued yesterday.

Following his meeting with U.S. Ambassador Parker, Minister Butrus made a statement to reporters in which he said: My meeting with the U.S. ambassador this morning is part of the contacts and diplomatic efforts which we have been making lately in order to ward off any danger to Lebanon or the Lebanese as a result of any possible Israeli reaction to the incident which you know about. Asked whether the U.S. ambassador had conveyed to him the results of the contacts with the parties concerned, Minister Butrus replied: The ambassador has informed me that the U.S. authorities are holding continuous contacts with the Israeli authorities to prevent any complications. The ambassador, however, at this stage of contacts which he and his government are holding, cannot say any more than this.

Asked if he is holding any contacts with other ambassadors, he replied: We will not hesitate to do anything that can help in controlling the situation and in safeguarding the Lebanese and Lebanese territory. Asked if there were any coordination between Lebanon and Syria regarding the present phase, he replied: I have held no contacts with the Syrian brothers during the past 48 hours, but being aware of the main lines of their policy, I am certain that the Syrian authorities are, in turn, holding whatever contacts they can.

AL-JUMAYYIL EXPRESSES OPINION ON BUS ATTACK

NC141950Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis at 1800 this evening received Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. Before this his excellency had received Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, who, upon leaving the presidential palace, reiterated the appeal for a joint [Christian-Moslem] meeting. He added that he had informed President Ilyas Sarkis that he protests the claim made in Beirut by the [Palestinian] resistance [on their responsibility] for the Israeli bus incident.

QATARI PAPER REPORTS SYRIAN FORCES ON ALERT

NC140812Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 14 March--Citing well-informed Syrian and Arab sources, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB reports today that Syria has placed its armed forces on the northern front and in Lebanon on a state of maximum alert to confront any aggression which Israel might launch on the Palestinian resistance and Palestinian camps in Lebanon. These sources, according to the newspaper, have disclosed that Syria is in possession of serious information about an imminent Israeli attack on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts. These sources say that Syria's decision to alert its forces was taken following the Israeli military movements yesterday and the night before. In the past 2 days, Israel has sent an additional armored brigade to the front and has moved heavy guns to the Lebanese border areas.

The newspaper says that Syria has assured the Palestinian leadership that it will not stand idly by if Israel launches an attack on the Lebanese front. Citing Palestinian sources, the newspaper adds that Syrian-Palestinian contacts have been held in the past 2 days to confront the imminent Israeli attack and to coordinate efforts to repulse it.

LEBANESE FRONT DISCUSSES ISRAELI THREATS

NC141900Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Lebanese front met today at the Christ the King Monastery and discussed the latest Israeli threats and the statements issued by Israeli officials blaming Lebanon for the latest incident on the Haifa-Tel Aviv road.

Former President Sham'un said: We discussed the latest incidents on the Haifa-Tel Aviv road, the fedayeen action which was carried out and the constant Israeli threats against Lebanon. I expressed my opinion on these threats and today presented a report to the Lebanese front. The front's opinion was unanimous; namely, this incident should be confined to the fedayeen and Israel and no responsibility for it should be put either on Lebanon or the Lebanese authorities.

LEBANESE ARMY ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN FOR VOLUNTEERS

NC141852Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] The army command announced today that it has decided to resume the campaign to get volunteers for the rank of private as of 20 March. A military committee will visit the Lebanese areas for this purpose.

OFFICIAL CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACK ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN151240Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Nasir Qaddur, the assistant foreign minister, today received the heads of the diplomatic missions of the member states of the Security Council in Damascus and informed them that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic views with great concern what is going on in southern Lebanon and considers these Israeli military operations an aggression against a UN member state and a violation of the UN Charter and the principles of international law. Furthermore, these military operations, which are causing the destruction of villages, the dispersion of population and the killing of Lebanese and Palestinian citizens, reflect the aggressive and expansionist spirit of the Israelis.

The assistant foreign minister requested the heads of the missions he received today to inform their countries, which are members of the Security Council, of the necessity to assume their responsibilities under the UN Charter and to immediately intervene to stop the aggression against a UN member state and also to take decisive measures to bring about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Lebanese territory.

The assistant foreign minister explained that the aim of the current aggression against Lebanon is to liquidate the Palestinian question, entrench the Zionist aggression and violate Lebanon's sovereignty.

Damascus Report on Attack

JN150942Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The aggression launched by the Zionist forces on southern Lebanon after midnight last night is continuing. Reports are still arriving about the continuation of the clashes in the areas attacked by the Zionist enemy.

On the other hand, Beirut Radio said that the Zionist aggression was launched on four fronts, including Bint Jubayl, at-Tayyibah, and the Tyre district.

The Zionist enemy said in a statement announced today that the aim of this aggression is to liquidate fedayeen bases in southern Lebanon.

The enemy radio reported that Simcha Dinitz, the Israeli ambassador in Washington, had informed U.S. President Carter of the Israeli attack 2 hours before it was launched.

Meanwhile, the spokesman of the Palestinian revolution forces in southern Lebanon has affirmed that the revolution forces are resisting the Zionist aggressors on all fronts and that they have succeeded in preventing the advance in the al-'Addusiyah-at-Tayyibah region and inflicted heavy losses, especially among the Zionist marines who landed in this region. [as heard: region mentioned is not on coast]

The spokesman of the Palestinian revolution forces said that very fierce battles are now raging between the Palestinian forces and the Zionist forces in the streets of Bint Jubayl. The spokesman said that Palestinian antiaircraft guns have prevented Zionist planes from bombarding the port of Tyre and the peaceful Palestinian refugee camps in the Tyre area.

V. 15 Mar 78

H 2

SYRIA

KHADDAM RETURNS HOME FOLLOWING VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

JN141400Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 14 March--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, returned to Damascus this afternoon following a short visit to Riyadh during which he met with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and conveyed to him a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad.

SYRIAN-SOVIET COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETS IN DAMASCUS

JN141845Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 14 March--An expanded meeting of the Syrian and Soviet sides to the Syrian-Soviet Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation was held at 1700 today in the meeting hall of the Syrian Central Bank in Damascus. This meeting is within the framework of the committee's third session.

The Syrian side was headed by Dr George Huraniyah, minister of state for planning affairs, while the Soviet side was headed by Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations in the USSR Council of Ministers.

During the meeting a review was made of what has been accomplished at the meetings of the third session [as received] of the joint committee and of the subcommittees stemming from it in connection with the development of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries in various economic and development fields in Syria.

KHULAYFAWI, ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER MANESCU RESUME TALKS

JN132127Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1800 today the talks were resumed between the Syrian side, headed by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, and the Romanian side, headed by Romanian Prime Minister Manea Manescu. During the meeting they studied part of what the technical committees formed 2 days ago have achieved. The talks ended at 1945.

Inspect Projects in Aleppo

JN141950Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Aleppo--Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and Romanian Prime Minister Manea Manescu today inspected several industrial projects being implemented in Syria by Romania. Khulayfawi and Manescu, accompanied by the minister of industry, inspected the cement factory and were briefed on the progress of work at the project. Khulayfawi and Manescu arrived in Aleppo at noon today.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES DRAFT LAW ON ARMS, TERRORISM

JN141747Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The People's Assembly met today under Speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and in the presence of a number of ministers. The assembly continued its discussion of the report by the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee on the draft law concerning sterner measures against the crime of possessing arms and ammunition and also the crime of terrorism. A number of assembly members and the minister of justice took part in the discussion. The assembly then passed the draft law after certain amendments.

ALGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION LEAVES DAMASCUS FOR HOME

JN141526Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 14 March--The Algerian parliamentary delegation led by Mr (Muhammad al-Mili al-Ibrahimi), chairman of the Information and Cultural Affairs Committee in the Algerian National People's Assembly, left Damascus today after a 1-week visit to Syria. The delegation was seen off at Damascus airport by Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the International and Arab Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly; Mr Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council; a number of assembly members; the director of public relations; and senior assembly officials. The Algerian charge d'affaires was also present to see the delegation off.

In a statement at the airport, (Al-Ibrahimi) said that a joint statement will be issued tomorrow on the meetings of the Algerian, Syrian and Palestinian parliamentarians, and will include the plans agreed on for Syrian-Palestinian-Algerian joint action and for a program to implement this action. The meetings, he said, are a first step which will hopefully be followed by larger steps on the Arab, African and international levels.

SUDAN

ETHIOPIAN ENVOY ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

LD141522Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Mr Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president of the republic and secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union, received at 1300 today the under secretary in the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, who arrived in Khartoum from Addis Ababa last night.

During their meeting the two officials discussed arrangements for the visit of the first vice president of the republic and secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union to Ethiopia. Issues that will be raised during the visit concern the restoration of confidence and consolidation of relations between the two countries and certain joint matters affecting the two countries [words indistinct].

The meeting was attended by Dr Francis Deng, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, and the Ethiopian ambassador in Khartoum.

BAKR RECEIVES BRITISH MINISTER FRANK JUDD

LD131550Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president of the republic and foreign minister, received at his office this morning Frank Judd, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, who arrived in the country yesterday for a 2-day visit. They discussed bilateral relations and also dealt with the Middle East problem and preparations for the Euro-Arab dialog, especially as Sudan will be leading the Arab group. The meeting touched on the Egyptian peace initiative and developments in southern Africa and the Horn of Africa, and the role of Sudan in bringing peace to this area.

The meeting was attended by [name indistinct] in charge of British relations with the Middle East in the British Foreign Office and the British ambassador in Sudan.

FOREIGN MINISTRY: NO U.S. APPEAL FOR RESTRAINT

TA141615Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 Mar 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Excerpt] The United States has not appealed to Israel to avoid a retaliation or to act with restraint. This was said today in the Foreign Ministry. In answer to a question from our political correspondent it was also said that, contrary to reports from Cairo, Israel has not been warned by the Egyptian foreign minister to avoid a retaliatory act.

ANNOUNCEMENT ON IDF ACTION IN S. LEBANON REPORTED

TA150635Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0615 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Rafi Mann, you have an official announcement by the IDF spokesman which has just been issued.

[Mann] Yes, I have the announcement which the IDF spokesman has just issued, an announcement which almost clears the fog of the reports we heard throughout the night until the publication of the first report at 0200 [0000 GMT]. Here is the IDF spokesman's announcement:

IDF forces are continuing with the purge of the terrorist deployments along the border with Lebanon. The action extends from the seashore to the base of Mt Hermon. An appreciable number of the targets determined in the plan are already in the hands of our forces. Taking part in the action are air, sea, artillery, armored and infantry forces. The terrorists have reacted with sparse fire on a number of IDF bases and settlements.

Let us repeat one section of the announcement: The action extends from the seashore to the base of Mt Hermon. An appreciable number of the targets, the IDF spokesman says, which were determined in the plan, are already in the hands of our forces.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0630 GMT on 15 March repeats the statement by the IDF spokesman, and adds: "There are no casualties" resulting from the terrorist fire on IDF bases and settlements.]

WEIZMAN, GUR HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON S. LEBANON OPERATION

TA150755Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Press conference given by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Mordekhai Gur in Tel Aviv on 15 March--live]

[Text] [Weizman--in English] Good morning. The Israel Defense Forces are in the process of clearing Fatah and the rest of the nasty ones in south Lebanon bordering on north Israel from the coast of the Mediterranean to north of Metulla, northeast of Metulla. The chief of staff will elaborate [words indistinct] the south Lebanon for the last few years has been an area of concentration of terrorists. These Fatah, or these other organizations and that for years we've had troubles from south Lebanon, some from Lebanon itself, which came to a peak in the terrible tragedy of last Saturday on the Haifa-Tel Aviv road. We therefore decided, not as a retaliation, but as a major operation of clearing this infected area once and for all from areas bordering with our north.

The operation started at night, including support weapons and air force which, as I said, the chief of staff will elaborate--the operation is in process now within south Lebanon.

Up to now we have inflicted casualties--it is too early to say how many--but appreciable and substantial casualties to the enemy. I hope that this operation will contribute to returning to their senses of the organizations themselves who operate from south Lebanon and to whatever countries and forces that have some influence over them.

We shall continue to clear the area, prevent the area from being attack positions against us, as long as we find it necessary or as long as nobody else puts his foot down. Therefore, we don't see it as one operation, but we see it as a continuous preventive action in our northern borders. I do hope--and we've been doing our best to strike at and eliminate fighting forces--we've done our best and we'll do our best to prevent any human losses to the civilian population. Up to now, the operation in that respect has been going according to plan. In all respects, it has been going according to plan.

I do hope that Syria will understand that this is a limited action in south Lebanon. I do hope that the Government of Lebanon understands that this is a preventive action for protecting the lives of Israelis and I do hope that the rest of the civilized world will understand that this is an action to prevent disasters like the one that happened on Saturday.

Are there any questions--one at a time, please--like the Fatah. [as heard] What?

[Yo'av Qarmi, IDF correspondent--in Hebrew; paraphrasing an inaudible question by an unidentified reporter and inaudible Weizman reply] The question concerns the IDF force which was sent into action. The defense minister answered that it was quite a large force.

[Weizman--in English] I did not say we will stay in there, I said that we'll carry on actions as long as we find it necessary.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] I cannot predict. We are in the midst of the battle now, how do I know right now. I do hope, I do hope and I sincerely say so: Nobody wants to stay there, nobody sees south Lebanon as part of Israel, never did and never will and if, by the influence of other parties, including the Israeli army, we can bring peace and quiet to south Lebanon, all of us will welcome it.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] No, not in close contact, I haven't had any contact with the United States Government, I personally, this morning. I do expect, the United States being an extremely friendly country, that we shall compare notes in due course.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] How deep is it?

[Weizman--in English] Right now, the chief of staff will elaborate; roughly where the arrows are, plus or minus. It's about 5 miles.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] As expected, which is fair, which is resistance; I wouldn't minimize and say that this is a walkover; we've had tougher battles in our lives. I would like to emphasize that one of the contingencies, one of the problems was weather, that everybody predicted, and quite rightly, that we did wait for the weather to clear and we--another thing is that we tried and do try and we always try, in the armed forces of Israel, to have as little as possible casualties to our own forces.

[Mostly indistinct question referring to IDF intentions of reaching a confrontation with Syrian forces]

[Weizman--in English] No, no, no. Thank you very much. No intentions whatsoever. The Lebanese Christian forces are there, but they are not taking part in the major operation. No, but they are friendly and nice forces.

[Mostly indistinct question on whether there will still be a Fatahland after this battle]

[Weizman--in English] No, I hope not. This is not the intention and this is not the aim of the operation. If, as a byproduct of it, something can happen in that respect, that might happen, but this is not the aim of the exercise. The aim of the operation is to eliminate as much as possible Fatah strongholds in south Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Under what contingency do you operate, that you may drive Fatah forces out or PLO forces out and [words indistinct] may come back in?

[Weizman--in English] Well, first of all, certain contingencies develop as they go along. Right now, the aim, as I've said before, is that wherever we drive them from, they shall not return.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] I said beforehand, a sizeable operation.

[Mostly indistinct question on whether IDF forces have attacked the bases from which the terrorists were sent who conducted the 11 March attack along the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway]

[Weizman--in English] A. No. B. The base where they came from is south of Beirut, a place called Damur and another place--you don't have to go always to where the hornet came from, although it's a hornet's nest, but you don't have to adhere always to super-logic. This is known, in very simple tactics, as surprise.

[Mostly indistinct question noting that in the past areas have been purged and terrorists later returned; why is it believed that this will not happen again]

[Weizman--in English] Because of the size of the operation and because of the, that certain rules were set out there, as I said to the gentleman before, that we shall do our best that wherever, from wherever we cleared, they will not come back. [sentence as heard]

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Mr Minister, could you clarify your remark that its going to be a continuous preventive operation?

[Weizman--in English] Well, I said a continuous, as long as it has to be continuous. I do hope that it will terminate one day when, as I said before--and do also refer to other things that I said--that I do hope that peace and quiet will return to south Lebanon. [sentence as heard]

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] Up to now, 0915 [0715 GMT], no pressure, but it doesn't mean it will not come. I hope it won't come. I hope that the world will understand, including the Egyptians, and including the Syrians and definitely more friendly countries, that enough is enough.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] Well, I...you can elaborate, don't pull me by my long tongue, but we do intend that this time it will be fundamental and firm; at least a part solution. I mean, you can't solve everything, but at least that south Lebanon will not be a base where from Fatah or other terrorist organizations operate from against Israel.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] And gone, and gone, and may his soul not rest in peace. He's dead, you're quite right. Sarkis has admitted, much to my surprise, that he's not in control of south Lebanon. I can only affirm what he said.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Is this operation larger than the 1972 operation in south Lebanon?

[Weizman--in English] It is bigger.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] [Words indistinct] finalization of these plans by President as-Sadat, condemnation of the raid and [words indistinct]?

[Weizman--in English] No, with all due respect to President as-Sadat--and I do hope that the negotiations with him will not terminate, not because of this and not because of other reasons. Had he said something else, we still would have carried on the operation.

[Mostly indistinct question about whether the intentions are to physically "destruct" all the Palestinian militias in south Lebanon or just their camps and bases]

[Weizman--in English] What is physically destruct, I don't understand you.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Well, kill as many Palestinians as you can get, as you can put your hands on?

[Weizman--in English] I thought that you cannot physically destruct, but let's not play on words. We do not intend to have any questions in south Lebanon against Israel.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Are you bringing prisoners back into Israel?

[Weizman--in English] Yes. Gentlemen, we have two casualties. They have more.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Does this action have any connection with the general strategic situation in southern Lebanon?

[From Hebrew translation] Is there any connection between the action and the trend to the benefit of the Palestinians in the strategic balance in southern Lebanon?

[Weizman--in English] Don't use such big words, strategic situation. As-Sa'iqa moved in, Fatah has moved in, I hope they are moving out.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] I have to stand by what [word indistinct] but it is the first time I am saying.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] First of all, not one operation can put an end to.... [From Hebrew translation] no single operation, the defense minister says, can cut out all possibility of terror, like [word indistinct]. [Weizman--in English] ...but, if I wouldn't have

thought what we thought, we wouldn't have carried the operation.... [From Hebrew translation] If we hadn't thought that this action would help impressively, I would not have done it.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Sir, can you tell us the disposition of Syrian forces in the area?

[Weizman--in English] No.

[Announcer translates indistinct question and indistinct Weizman reply into Hebrew] Did you send a prior announcement to any branch of the U.S. administration? There was a communication between Prime Minister Begin and President Carter.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman--in English] I don't know. I am not in [words indistinct] of explaining everything that Washington does. I do hope sometimes I could.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Minister, have you been able to prevent Palestinian forces from retreating behind the Litani or behind Syrian lines beyond which.... [announcer translates into Hebrew, then says Weizman replies: "As best we can."]

[Weizman--in English] [Words indistinct] did manage to go across the Litani and some are still there. There are still plenty there.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Who will control south Lebanon after the IDF leaves?

[Weizman--in English] The legal government of Lebanon, I hope, I do hope, and I have no reason to believe why not. We are [words indistinct] the government that we think, the way she should be: a friendly government, a friendly country, that does not give the ability to the terrorists to operate. I would like to point out one thing: I don't say the Syrians are friendly, or the Jordanians--although the Jordanians are more--we have no Fatah operations neither from Jordan nor from Syria. It doesn't mean it cannot happen, but they don't do that and therefore we would like to have a government in Lebanon that can control south Lebanon and not declare that she is out of control of south Lebanon. If we have a government there that can do that, we will be very happy.

[Indistinct question on whether IDF forces have crossed bridges over the Litani River]

[Weizman--in English] No. [Weizman continues in Hebrew] Okay, let's carry on in Hebrew, my friends, and afterward we will move over to English.

[Indistinct question]

[Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur--in English] The navy has quite a role. [Announcer in Hebrew] The navy had a large role along the coast from Tyre south.

[Weizman--in English] It's not a fishing operation there. Gentlemen, may I switch over to Hebrew?

[Weizman--in Hebrew] To the Hebrew press: Since the late hours of last night, there has been an operation in southern Lebanon by all arms of the IDF, including the air force and the navy. There is no doubt that this operation is coming in the wake of what happened in the disaster on Saturday. It is, however, not a retaliatory operation in the customary sense. This is an operation attempting to--and I think it will succeed--destroy and liquidate as best as possible concentrations of terrorists in southern Lebanon, concentrations which, particularly in recent weeks and months, have been reinforced both on land and on the sea with arms and personnel, and for which southern Lebanon and the whole of Lebanon served as a launching base for operations against the State of Israel.

It is not the objective of the Government of Israel either to hold or to remain in southern Lebanon. Southern Lebanon is a part of sovereign Lebanon, provided the sovereign government of southern [as heard] Lebanon is capable of controlling the situation. The president of Lebanon, President Sarkis, or more precisely, President Sarkis asserted yesterday that his government had no control over southern Lebanon. I confirm this. Thus, since this lack of control contributed, among other things, to the fact that the territory south of the Litani River in particular, and also in other Lebanese areas, served as a launching base for terrorists, the government decided and ordered the IDF to enter certain areas in southern Lebanon to enforce order there, with the aim that eventually and hopefully, a lawful and sovereign government of Lebanon will be capable of maintaining the regular and tranquil life of the citizens of the south and of citizens in the north of Israel.

The operation is a relatively large-scale operation. So far we have followed the plan. We are now in the middle of the military movement, and I hope that in the course of today, tomorrow and during the night, the IDF spokesman will be able to give you more precise details.

Among other things, we deem it our task or aim not to involve or expand ourselves any farther than southern Lebanon. I hope the Government of Syria understands this, that the operation we have undertaken is meant to defend ourselves and that it has no other aim. I hope other governments the world over understand this too. Explicit instructions have been issued to the IDF to endeavor as much as this is possible--in war such a thing is not usually acceptable--that citizens and, especially women and children, are not hit. The IDF is making that endeavor.

I hope that we shall very quickly reach a situation where we shall have accomplished our task and we shall return the situation in southern Lebanon to what it had been in the past--one of the calmest areas in the Middle East. Are there any questions?

[Unidentified questioner] When do you expect the end of the operation of enforcing order on southern Lebanon? When will our forces come back?

[Weizman] I cannot answer this. I cannot answer, and not because I don't want to. I hope this will be as short as possible. But it can take longer than I think.

[Unidentified questioner] Are there already assessments regarding losses among our forces, the number of prisoners we have taken?

[Weizman] We have caught a number of Fatah men--I don't know whether to call them prisoners of war, this is not exactly a regular army--the Fatah has relatively many losses. We have losses too. How many? Much, much, much, much less than the Fatah. How many? It is too early to say. The chief of staff, do you wish to elaborate?

[Gur] No.

[Unidentified questioner] Will the IDF forces remain in the area after the end of the operation?

[Weizman] The IDF forces will endeavor, and so will the Government of Israel, that IDF forces do not remain in southern Lebanon. As long as we deem it necessary to enforce order and to prevent hostile activity, we shall keep the area under control.

[Unidentified questioner] Was the United States notified about the operation before [words indistinct]?

[Weizman] I said earlier, I believe, in English, there was a contact between the prime minister and the President of the United States, but this I will leave to the prime minister to answer.

[Unidentified questioner] What do you expect the Syrian reaction to the operation to be?

[Weizman] I hope the reaction will continue to be as it has been so far--without reaction. I hope they understand and I repeat, if I can tell them so at this opportunity: this is a limited operation in southern Lebanon, without any wish or aim to be provoked into any incident or beyond that with the Syrian forces.

[Unidentified questioner] Have our forces sustained losses?

[Weizman] Listen, I said before. Desist on this point. There are losses in every operation. I hope there will be very few.

[Unidentified questioner] Has the IDF hit military concentrations along the shore?

[Weizman] Some, yes, not yet all of them.

[Unidentified questioner] Mr Minister, do you foresee an impact on the expected negotiations with Egypt?

[Weizman] I hope not. I hope that all the elements taking part in the negotiations with Egypt--first I hope they will continue, I hope they will regain the momentum they had a few weeks ago--will understand that this is an operation meant to bring calm to a certain part of our country, in order to create a more propitious background for the negotiations, rather than the opposite.

[Unidentified questioner] Is there any coordination or cooperation with Christian forces?

[Weizman] The Christians are there; the Christians are armed; the Christians are also playing their part in what has to be done in a place, which after all is their country, their settlements and their land.

[Indistinct question]

[Weizman] The IDF will act at any time it deems proper, by any method and in any place it deems proper, as has been the case in the last 30 years since the establishment of the state. I hope this will be a one-time operation.

[Unidentified questioner] Does your answer imply that the IDF will not evacuate Lebanon unless [passage indistinct]

[Weizman] It can be understood from my words--this is not a matter of evacuating or not--the IDF will be in control, it does not have to be in control, necessarily, by physically sitting on the place. You know this very well. The IDF will not relinquish southern Lebanon as long as it remains a source for hitting the State of Israel.

[Unidentified questioner] In other words, the Cairo accord is no longer valid as far as we are concerned?

[Weizman] Where we are concerned? My dear, we have never been a party to the Cairo agreement. I am willing to reach all sorts of agreements with Arab countries. I don't remember that anyone in the State of Israel has signed the Cairo agreement. Thank you very much. We have a lot of work to do.

[Gur] I'd like to explain the map. The western area, the area of Ra's an-Naquurah and Ra's al-Bayadah--this is the area from which the katyushas are usually fired on Nahariyya. The central area of Bint Jubayl and Marun ar-Ra's--this is the area from which katyushas are usually fired at Zefat. The areas around Metulla, At-Tayyibah, Al-Khiyam, areas from which katyusha fire is directed at Qiryat Shemona.

And, afterwards, the well-known Fatahland on the right, from which operations were undertaken both with katyushas and also with other means. These are the concentrations against which we operated during the night, with one force operating in the western sector opposite the bases of the terrorists, especially in the area of Ra's al-Bayadah and Ra's an-Naquurah. The second force operated in the entire Bint Jubayl area, including Bint Jubayl itself and Marun ar-Ra's. An additional force was operating in the At-Tayyibah area, and the most eastern force was operating in the entire sector of Al-Khiyam and the Fatahland approaches.

During the night we have mainly been operating with infantry, assisted by the air force and by the navy, and the armored and engineering corps. At dawn the operation became more mobile, infantry integrated with armor, again with artillery and air force assistance, as well as assistance by the naval forces in the sector along the shore.

Most of the targets we have earmarked have already been seized, most of the terrorist bases have already been conquered. We are now at a stage where we are cleaning up the places that have not yet been cleaned up, after which we are linking all the enclaves--the blue arrows that can be seen on the map--so that there will be here a defensive strip along the entire border, a border 100 km long, from the Mediterranean up to the slopes of Har Dov.

I expect that the operation will be concluded within several hours. The fighting will continue, as the defense minister said, because there are still terrorist bases here. It is difficult to assess at the moment how it will develop. Much will depend on them.

We are not foreseeing Syrian intervention because the Syrian forces are deployed farther north from the Litani River, and they have no actual reason to take part in the battle.

[Unidentified questioner] Chief of Staff Gur, perhaps you would be willing to elaborate on the tasks of the air force and the navy in this operation.

[Gur] The task of the air force is to hit terrorist targets inland, and the task of the navy is to hit the forces operating along the shores.

[Unidentified questioner] What is the depth of the defensive strip? Is Tyre a target for the operation?

[Gur] I will repeat the question. What is the depth of the defensive belt? On the average it can be said that it will be from 7 to 10 km. It depends, naturally, on the various areas and on the places that control the key areas. Tyre is, of course, a district town and a large town. We can mention in Lebanon still many more centers with terrorists, such as Beirut, for example. We have no intention of reaching those distances. The intention in this operation is to seize control over the area of the belt I mentioned earlier, of from 7 to 10 km. In the course of the operation, we are also hitting targets farther in the rear, but we are not reaching them with land forces.

[Unidentified questioner] Mr Chief of Staff, in order to prevent further infiltrations by terrorists, will the IDF have to leave forces in the area?

[Gur] This question was already answered by the defense minister.

[Gur--in English] Now, with your permission, you will look at the arrows you see on the map. The arrow from the west, near the coastline, this is the area from which the Fatah used to shoot the katyusha rockets to the area of Nahariyya. Here, in the near side, this is the area of Bint Jubayl, from which they used to shoot the rockets to Zefat and Tiberias. In the east side you see the area of at Tayyibah and Al-Khiyam, from which they used to shoot the katyushas to the area of Qiryat Shemona. I mentioned only the katyushas, but of course all kind of activities carried out by the Fatah people were mainly carried out from these areas. This is the reason why tonight we opened the operation by artillery, armor, navy, air force and engineers and since a few hours we continue with combined forces of infantry and armor, again supported by air force and artillery and engineers.

Just now we are almost at the end of the occupation part. Most of the Fatah bases were taken already and we hope that in a few hours it will be over. This doesn't mean that the fighting will be over, because we assume that the Fatah people will continue somehow and we will have to choose in due time what kind of military activity we carry out.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] What did you mean by what kind of military activity will continue?

[Gur--in English] For example, if the Fatah people will use a lot of katyushas and artillery, we'll have to use the air force and our artillery in order to stop them.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Is it plain what your objectives are in the Bint Jubayl area, because that place is described as a major guerrilla....

[Gur, interrupting--in English] That's right. Bint Jubayl is the biggest town in that area and Bint Jubayl is surrounded by several hills all round. The most famous is Marun ar-Ra's which became famous lately, but there are some other hills all around and that used to be the center of Fatah activity in all the central area, so what we do is that we occupy that area of Bint Jubayl and the hills around and we try to eliminate all the Fatah bases in that area.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] What is the role of the navy and the air force?

[Gur--in English] The air force, basically, we use to stop artillery fire on our settlements. As a matter of fact, during the night, several settlements and military bases were shelled by artillery owned by the Fatah people--then on some of the Fatah strongholds we used the air force. We use the navy in order to support the people, the soldiers who were working along the column.

[Indistinct question]

[Gur--in English] No, without any details of the operation, please.

[Indistinct question]

[Gur--in English] I wouldn't say that there is a lot of movement right now, but it might happen in the next few hours.

[unidentified questioner--in English] Where did they come from?

[Gur--in English] All the bridges over the Litani are open and they can come from the Beirut area and from Sidon area. We intend to establish a certain strip all along the border in order to defend our areas.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] How deep will that be?

[Gur--in English] Between 7 to 10 km.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Is it your impression that the Fatah people are standing and fighting or are they trying to get clear of...

[Gur, interrupting--in English] No, in several places the fighting was quite hard. In some other places it was not as hard as that. That depends very much on the people in each column, but there was quite [a bit of] fighting during the night.

[Indistinct question]

[Gur--in English] No, they are not seeking the battle but we are seeking the battle in order to eliminate the bases and in some places they succeed to run too fast and in some places they fight.

[Indistinct question]

[Gur--in English] Yes, I mentioned before that some of the artillery targets are much deeper and we used not only the air force but also the artillery.

[Indistinct question]

[Gur--in English] The range, usually, of artillery is about 20 km.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] You know, in that strip will there be any IDF forces remaining after the main force has withdrawn?

[Gur--in English] That question was answered by the minister.

[Indistinct question]

[Gur--in English] I won't go into details of the operation right now.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] Gentlemen, due to the fact that you were delayed by the weather, what does your intelligence say many of the Palestinians did in terms of making a move too, backed by Syrians?

[Gur--in English] Intelligence usually is quite secret and I don't like to go into intelligence matters.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] General, were there more spots where there was heavy fighting than there was less fighting on the part of Fatah?

[Gur--in English] Until now I didn't count them.

[Unidentified questioner--in English] General, is Tyre involved in all this [word indistinct]?

[Gur--in English] Not yet. I say not yet because I don't want to go into details.

[Indistinct question]

[Gur--in Hebrew] To this day there has been no single action which could silence all the actions and, in view of the chain of actions--and this is one of them--we are hoping that it will lead to a greater cessation in the activity.

[Indistinct question]

[Gur--in English] We can only hope that the Syrians will understand by the size of the operation that it will be good for them and for us if they don't do anything. Thank you very much.

[Announcer] The press conference is over. In conclusion it is possible to say that the chief of staff expects that at the end of the next few hours the operation will be over, but not the whole war. He pointed out that additional terrorists are helping their comrades, coming from north Lebanon, from the Beirut area, via the bridges over the Litani. Here, from Bet Sokolov, from Eli Sihor, Moshe Aronsky and Beni Rom, we return the broadcast to the studio.

AIR FORCE STRIKES IN NORTH ANNOUNCED BY IDF

Base Near Beirut

TA151203Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1150 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] An IDF spokesman announcement: A few minutes ago air force planes bombed the terrorist base near Damur, south of Beirut. The terrorists who carried out the massacre on the coastal road on Saturday trained at this base and it was from there that they set out on the murder mission.

This is the report by the IDF spokesman, who adds that a Syrian commando unit stationed near this base opened fire on our planes. The air force planes refrained from attacking the Syrian force. The IDF spokesman reported that our planes have returned safely to their base.

Attack Tyre Port

TA151321Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Air force planes struck at terrorist objectives in Tyre port and at the dock of Al-Awza'i south of Beirut. This is reported by the IDF spokesman.

The Tyre port serves as the main supply lane for the terrorists in southern Lebanon. It is from this port that terrorists have left for many operations.

The Al-Awza'i dock served and continues to serve as a training and maintenance base for terrorist naval units.

'ARAFAT SPOKESMAN QUOTED ON VILLAGES TAKEN

TA150200Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0150 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's spokesman announced tonight that IDF forces have conquered the following villages in southern Lebanon: Bint Jubayl, Marun ar-Ra's, Yarun, At-Tayyibah, Al-Khiyam and Rumaysh. The spokesman said that all of the villages had been bombed by the Israeli Air Force. 'Arafat's spokesman added that the Israelis invaded Lebanon with tanks along three routes.

BEGIN, WEIZMAN TOUR NORTHERN BORDER AREA

TA151350Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1345 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin visited the Lebanese border this morning. The prime minister was accompanied by the minister of defense and senior officers who gave Mr Begin a report on the IDF operation underway in southern Lebanon. The prime minister talked with officers and soldiers.

Mr Begin has already returned to Jerusalem and this evening he will report to the government, among other things, about the impressions he gained.

MILITARY REPORTER ANALYZES IDF ACTION IN S. LEBANON

TA150617Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0525 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] At this stage, the IDF cleaning-out operation in Lebanon is still difficult. This morning we asked for the first evaluation by military commentator Ze'ev Schiff from HA'AREZ:

[Schiff] Well, in spite of the battle smoke I would say that there are several points which are gradually becoming clear. It is worth mentioning, first of all, several points to bring us up-to-date in addition to what correspondents have already said up to now. First, the fighting continues, including hand-to-hand battles. It is already known that the terrorists have dozens of fatalities. I would add another point: from reports from the field it is known that the terrorist artillery is trying to shell our territory. As is known, the terrorist reinforced their artillery over the last few months in southern Lebanon.

It is worth noting several details in the official announcement by the IDF spokesman issued at 0200 [0000 GMT] about the IDF action. First, that, in this case, the IDF forces do not intend to act in great depth within southern Lebanon. The IDF spokesman's announcement speaks of activity against terrorist bases and, I emphasize, and special bases--apparently this means those bases from which terrorists use to depart to act within Israeli territory, in depth in Israeli territory--this does not mean acting in great depth, because the announcement speaks of bases near the border.

The second point, which is also linked with depth, speaks of the fact that the IDF has no intention of striking at the pan-Arab deterrent forces, that is, the Syrian army--and we know that the Syrian army is stationed beyond the Litani. As will be recalled, in 1972, before the Yom Kippur war, the IDF acted with large forces in this territory and then reached the Litani. It is worth noting, however, that the scope of our action, both from the aspect of the scope of the forces and that of the territory, in fact spreads out over almost the entire length of the border. We are receiving reports both from the terrorists and from the field, in our settlements, of activity practically from one end [of the border] to the other. That is, all along the border which stretches over at least 80 km or more.

It is worth noting that this is a combined action, including, apart from the land forces--that is, infantry, armored corps, artillery--and certainly because of the terrain, also engineering forces. By the way, the action includes the air force and also shelling from the sea. Another point--with respect to the forces in the field: Since 1972 something has happened in the territory of southern Lebanon. Roni Dani'el recalled before that 6,000 terrorists are in southern Lebanon, but even if we take into account the depth of the action, that is, the proximity of it to the border, I would not take a number of less than 1,500 terrorists in this territory, including forces from As-Sa'iqah, which is an organization which is in fact under the aegis of and organized by Syria. About 1,500 terrorists, with artillery, with many bases, some of them surrounding Christian enclaves such as Marun ar-Ra's and Bint Jubayl, where there is quite a large force. That is, the fighting is not inconsiderable, particularly if we take into account the size of the terrain and the villages.

In spite of all this, I would add and conclude here that this is an action which resembles its predecessors from the aspect of its methods. It has nothing unusual, but we must wait and see how matters develop.

REACTIONS TO OPERATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES REPORTED

Egyptian Disappointment

TA150330Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0300 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] In Cairo Egyptian officials expressed disappointment that Israel did not heed Egypt's appeal to show restraint and launched an operation in southern Lebanon. The Egyptian officials say that in this way Israel might drag the Middle East into war. The officials in Cairo added that the Israeli operation might influence the fate of President as-Sadat's peace initiative. At the same time, in their opinion, it should not be assumed that As-Sadat will back down from his aspiration to achieve peace.

This morning Cairo's newspapers severely attack the Israeli Government and especially Prime Minister Menahem Begin. He is regarded as the most extreme of Israel's leaders. The newspaper AL-AHRAM writes that Begin is a kind of new Hitler, a bloodthirsty terrorist.

Palestinian Comment

TA150326Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0300 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpts] The only reports coming from Lebanon itself on the IDF operation are reports by Palestinian spokesmen. Radio Beirut and Lebanese Government sources are maintaining total silence for the time being. PLO spokesmen have announced that the Israeli forces, including tanks and infantry, attacked the terrorist strongholds along the border under air cover. One Palestinian source estimates the number of invading Israeli forces at between 24,000 and 28,000 soldiers. The same Palestinian source maintains that the aim of the Israeli offensive is to conquer the whole of southern Lebanon up to the Litani River.

Ships of the Israeli Navy have reportedly concentrated along Lebanon's southern coast, deploying along the coast from the region opposite the Palestinian village of Sarafand up to the Israeli border--a distance of about 45 km. However, for the time being, the Israeli vessels have not opened fire.

The Palestinian spokesman said that IDF aircraft bombed the terrorist strongholds prior to the armored attack. The armored attack was launched along three lines which deployed in regions of southern Lebanon and the district of Al-'Urqub, which is Fatahland. The Israeli aircraft also flew over Sidon but there was no fire in that area. According to the PLO spokesman, the terrorists returned fire with bazookas and heavy machineguns from their strongholds. The Palestinian spokesman said that it appears that the Israeli operation is directed against all Palestinian positions along the border. This is a very big operation. They want to destroy us totally, the PLO spokesman said.

U.S. Reaction

TA150557Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] At midnight, 2 hours before the first announcement of the army's operation, Israel's Washington Ambassador Simcha Dinitz gave President Carter a letter from Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The letter explained the reasons for the army's action in southern Lebanon. With details from Washington Connie (Lon): [begin recording]

Most of Washington views the retaliatory action with suspense and anxiety. President Carter and Secretary Vance have so far said nothing about it and are not expected to until the situation becomes clear. When they do talk they may be moderate in their assessment, not wanting to complicate next week's talks anymore than necessary.

It has been learned Ambassador Dinitz gave Secretary Vance a letter from Prime Minister Begin at the time the action began. The message was to be forwarded to President Carter and is believed to contain an explanation of the action and the anticipated Israeli goal. With the exception of the letter, there was no prior consultation with Israeli and American officials about the retaliatory raid.

In Washington security analysts were taken by surprise with the midnight timing, expecting the raid to begin at dawn. But they say Israel gained the tactical advance of surprise. They expected a massive systematic sweep up to the Litani River, designed to destroy all PLO bases and equipment.

U.S. officials here expressed two major concerns: They are worried about the length of time Israel will stay in southern Lebanon and fear that Syrian forces north of the Litani may join in the fighting with the PLO. Both actions could turn the operation into a full-scale war, they fear.

This is Connie (Lon) in Washington returning you to Jerusalem. [end recording]

TERRORIST GROUP REPORTED TO BE IN CYPRUS

TA142052Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Is there a terrorist group operating in Cyprus at present? Our correspondent reports that in the investigation of the detained terrorists it has been learned that a terrorist group consisting of approximately 20 people was trained from January to the beginning of March. These terrorists were then divided into two groups: the first group committed the murderous act on the coastal road on Saturday, and the second group, which numbered seven terrorists, made its way to Cyprus by merchant ship from the port of Tyre. Upon arrival in Cyprus they were hidden in a Fatah office, and at least until the departure of the group of terrorists who operated in our territory, they were still in Cyprus. The purpose of their presence in Cyprus is not known, but from partial information known to the terrorists imprisoned here, they may intend to carry out another attack on some target in Cyprus.

AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA RECALLED FOR CONSULTATION

TA151027Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Austria is due to return to Israel for consultations. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan asked him today to do this following what was said by the Austrian chancellor and his foreign minister, remarks from which could be understood a justification for and a defense of the murder actions carried out by PLO terrorists on Saturday, 11 March.

'SOURCE' SAYS EGYPT PREPARED FOR SEPARATE PEACE

TA141326Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A political source in Jerusalem assesses that Egypt is prepared for separate negotiations with Israel on the condition that it clearly undertakes to withdraw from Judea and Samaria. This is reported by our political correspondent Shalom Qital. The Jerusalem political source says that the gap between Israel's position on the Palestinian issue and the position expressed in the Aswan declaration is relatively narrow. However, there is a substantive gap on the question of withdrawal.

Further Details

TA141327Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Egypt might be prepared to negotiate with Israel bilaterally if agreement can be reached over a declaration of principles. This is the view of senior officials in Jerusalem who said they perceived a change in the Egyptian stand since January. More details on this from Dani'el Gavon:

The Jerusalem evaluation is that the Egyptians do not now require the physical presence of Jordan at the talks provided the declaration of principles can be worked out and is acceptable to both sides. It was stressed that in the initial phase after President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem the Egyptians had been confident that they could bring Jordan into the talks. This did not appear to be the case any longer. With regard to the declaration of principles, Jerusalem feels that on the Aswan formula, that envisages Palestinian participation in their own future, Israel and the United States are not too far apart.

On the question of withdrawal from territories, the differences are much larger. This of course does not mean that the Egyptians will be prepared to sign on their own, but there is reason to believe that they will be prepared to continue the negotiating process. Officials expressed the belief that many of the elements of the Israeli peace plan will appear in the U.S. proposals for Middle East peace if and when they are presented. There might be certain differences and points might be presented in different ways but it seems that some of Israel's basic ideas are acceptable to the United States. Officials emphasize that Israel accepts UN Security Council Resolution 242 and that it fully accepts that Resolution 242 does indeed apply to Judaea and Samaria. What Israel says is this: There are various interpretations of 242. Israel does not believe that its peace plan contradicts 242. It was noted that the Israeli peace plan would end military government in the West Bank and that this is in effect a withdrawal of military forces as outlined in the resolution. The problem of sovereignty is left open and Israeli sovereignty is not being implemented.

With regard to the question of settlement, there is a distinction between Sinai and the West Bank. With regard to Sinai, a freeze on new settlements has been decided, even settlements planned and approved by the previous government. The only activity permitted was the strengthening of settlements. In Judaea and Samaria it has been decided not to freeze settlement activities. The system of settlement within army camps with the tacit approval of the United States is coming to an end, it is estimated. The United States will probably not go on accepting this. The sources stressed that the argument is between doing nothing about settling Judaea and Samaria or doing just a little. Massive settlement is simply not a feasibility at the present time. There is no difference of opinion in the cabinet about settlement that was suggested. Everyone is in favor of settlement just as everyone realizes that wide-scale settlement right now is impossible. The differences are over timing and tactics. With regard to Sinai, Israel's security demands remain: There must be an Israeli presence at Sharm ash-Shaykh, Rafah and the airfields. Regarding the actual status of the areas, this was open to interpretation. If Israel did not want an Israeli presence on its land Israel might propose territorial changes, [as heard] but the officials did not believe that Israel would propose mutual border changes.

KHALATBARI COMMENTS ON IRAN'S RELATIONS WITH GDR, KENYA

LD150944Y Teheran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Following the closure of the Iranian Embassy in Kenya and the recall of the Iranian Ambassador from Nairobi, Britain is looking after the interests of Iran and the Iranian subjects, Foreign Minister Abbas Ali Khalatbari announced yesterday. Talking to newsmen, Mr Khalatbari also referred to recent differences in Iranian-East German Relations and said that the GDR Government has allowed a group of so-called students to attack the Iranian Embassy in East Berlin and to leave that country after they had been sentenced to prison terms by GDR courts. He said that following the attack and consequent action by East Germany, Iran now does not feel its embassy to be safe from future attacks and as such the Embassy in East Berlin is almost closed. The minister added that the GDR ambassador to Iran has met with Iranian officials several times to explain the action of his government but his explanation has not been satisfactory.

Mr Khalatbari said that there are a number of agreements and protocols between Iran and East Germany which are being implemented. He said that these agreements will be implemented, but with the absence of Iranian representatives in East Berlin one can see that no new cooperation could be worked out.

BRIEFS

PRINCE RETURNS TO TEHERAN--Teheran, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--His Imperial Highness Prince Abdorreza Pahlavi ended his 3-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait this afternoon and returned to Teheran. [Text] [Teheran PARS in English 2348 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

ZIAUR RAHMAN TO DEPART FOR VISIT TO JAPAN 5 APRIL

BK141718Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 14 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman will pay a state visit to Japan commencing on the 6th of next month. This was simultaneously announced in Dacca and Tokyo today. The president will leave Dacca for Tokyo on April 5.

PAPER REPORTS ELECTION OF AWAMI LEAGUE OFFICIALS

BK141607Y Dacca BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Mar 78 pp 1, 8 BK

[Excerpts] Mr Abdul Malek Ukil and Mr Abdur Razzaque were elected president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Awami League in the concluding session of the party's 3-day council session on Sunday. The 20-member panel of office-bearers unanimously finalised by the subject committee was placed before the council session and was passed. Mr Abdur Razzaque announced the agreed panel before the council.

It may be mentioned that the Central Committee of the party was not formed in the council session. The Central Committee will be formed later.

The following were elected office-bearers: president, Mr Abdul Malek Ukil; vice presidents, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Mr Matiur Rahman, Mr Rafiquiddin Ehuiyan, Mr Abdul Mannan, Mr Mahiuddin Ahmed and Mr Abdul Momen Talukdar; general secretary, Mr Abdur Razzaque; joint secretaries, Mrs Sajeda Chowdhury and Mr Salahuddin Yusuf; organising secretary, Mr Tofail Ahmed; office secretary Syed Ahmed; treasurer, Mr Fazlul Karim; labour secretary, Kazi Muzammel; agriculture secretary, Commandant Manik Chowdhury; cultural secretary, Mr S.M. Yusuf; publicity secretary, Mr Sardar Amjad Hussain; women secretary, Mrs Ivy Rahman; youth secretary, Mr Amir Hussain Amu and welfare secretary, Mr Yahya Chowdhury Pintu.

A 10-member parliamentary board was also formed in the council session. The members of the board are Mr Korban Ali, Mr Mollah Jalaluddin Ahmed, Mr Abdul Mannan, Professor Yusuf Ali, Mr Abdul Momen, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Qazi Zahirul Qayum, Mr Iuftur Rahman. The president and general secretary are ex-officio members.

INDIA

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN DELHI 15 MARCH

BK150854Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Kang Yang-uk, now on a 6-day visit to this country, was given a warm welcome on his arrival in New Delhi this morning. He was received at the airport by Vice President Jatti, External Affairs Minister Vajpayee and others.

Speaking at the airport Mr Kang said that his country wants to strengthen and further develop the cooperation with India. He said the Korean people value very much the friendly relations with the Indian people and as nonaligned nations the two countries will work together for strengthening nonaligned unity and cooperation.

ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT EXPRESSES REGRET OVER CHONA LETTER

BK141321Y Delhi ISI in English 0935 GMT 14 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has written a personal letter to Prime Minister Morarji Desai and has expressed his "sorrow and sincere regrets" for the embarrassment that the letter of his Prime Minister Mainza Chona to the TIMES of London had caused to India, reports SAMACHAR.

Kaunda's letter, in which he addressed Desai as "my dear elder brother", was delivered to the prime minister on the afternoon of March 13 when Zambian High Commissioner A.C. Chalikulima called on him.

In his message, Doctor Kaunda has mentioned that Chona was a frequent contributor of articles at home and abroad and that his writings reflected his personal opinion.

Kaunda is believed to have written to Desai that his prime minister had not been able to properly read the situation obtaining in India and that Chona could not take into account the possible repercussions of such a letter in which he alleged that former Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi was being harassed.

In a press statement, Chalikulima said that Chona had tendered his sincere apology to the Indian leadership and said that views expressed in the letter represented his own personal thinking and not the views of policy of the Zambian Government. Chona's apology was tendered through the acting Indian high commissioner, P.S. Sahay, in Lusaka.

Chalikulima said that in his letter to Desai, the Zambian president had "reaffirmed Zambia's commitment to the relations of the two countries and has also reaffirmed his personal and official confidence in the leadership of Desai and his government."

The high commissioner said that he would like to pledge Zambia's "unflinching commitment to the relations between our two countries and to reiterate my government's sincere hope that India would continue to render their unqualified support and material assistance to the frontline states who provide the rear guard bases for the liberation forces in southern Africa and also redouble our efforts in promoting Indo-Zambian relations. [sentence as received]

VAJPAYEE RETURNS FROM MARUITIAN VISIT 15 MAR

BK150858Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister has described the setting up of the Indian-Maruitian Joint Economic Commission as a landmark in relations between the two countries. This, he said, has institutionalized cooperation between the two countries. Mr Vajpayee was speaking to newsmen at Delhi airport this morning on his return from Mauritius.

He said his visit has been very fruitful and he had useful talks with the Maruitian prime minister and other leaders.

INDIAN SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED BY END OF YEAR

BK151101Y Delhi ISI in English 0904 GMT 15 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The second Indian satellite called "Satellite for Earth Observations (SEO)", which is being designed and fabricated at the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] satellite centre, Bangalore, is expected to be launched by the end of 1978 from a cosmodrome in the USSR with the aid of a Soviet rocket carrier. This was disclosed at a meeting of the consultative committee of members of Parliament for the departments of atomic energy, space, electronics and science and technology held in New Delhi on March 14. Prime Minister Morarji Desai presided.

The engineering model of the satellite has been completely integrated and tested and it has also been flown on a helicopter over Sriharikota (SHAR) [not further identified] to ensure its compatibility with the ground station. The prototype model of the satellite is under fabrication and is expected to be completed before the middle of this year. The flight model of the satellite is expected to be ready in time for the launch by the end of this year.

The meeting was informed that an experimental flight of the satellite launch vehicle (SLV-3) for launching of a satellite from India is planned by the end of this year. An orbital flight with the satellite is expected during the second half of 1979. The main objective of the satellite launch vehicle (SLV-3) project is the design development and operation of a four-stage satellite launch vehicle system capable of fulfilling in a reliable and expeditious manner the mission of launching a 40 kilogram satellite into a 400 kilogram near circular orbit around the earth. [sentence as received] About 40 public and private sector industries throughout the country are cooperating in the work with the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thumba.

The meeting was told that the Tuticorin heavy water plant is now under commissioning. The Talchar plant will be ready for precommissioning test by July 1978 and the plant in Kota by October 1979. The Baroda heavy water plant, which had to be shut down because of an accident in December last, is likely to take about a year and 4 months for refurbishing. Production from these plants would be sufficient for meeting the needs of the nuclear power stations now being built. The first unit of the Madras atomic power project is likely to attain criticality by December 1979 and the second by July 1981. The two units of the Narora power project are scheduled to attain criticality in December 1982 and 1983. A final picture for nuclear power projects and heavy water plants in the sixth plan is still to emerge but tentatively it is proposed to have three more heavy water plants in the sixth plan.

Some members raised the question of continued supply of enriched uranium from the United States for the Tarapore atomic power station. They urged the government to pursue the policy of attaining self-reliance.

PAKISTAN

ROMANIAN-PAKISTANI COOPERATION PROGRAM SIGNED

LD102046Y Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1901 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Islamabad, to March (AGERPRES)--The new programme of cooperation in education, science and culture between Romania and Pakistan, valid until July 30, 1979, was signed in Islamabad. The programme stipulates among others, the mutual granting of scholarships, interchanges of teaching staff, researchers, men of culture, exchanges of publications between higher learning institutions of the two countries, the setting up of Romanian language and Urdu Chairs at the universities of Islamabad and Bucharest, respectively.

RADIO COMMENTARY ON KOREAN REUNIFICATION, RELATIONS

BK121358Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0035 GMT 12 Mar 78 BK

[Unattributed news commentary]

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed a very important visitor this week. He is Mr Pak Song-chol, the vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Ever since the division of the Korean Peninsula, this country has been known in common parlance as North Korea while the lower half has been named South Korea.

It was exactly about this very division that the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, mentioned categorically his government's policy during his Friday night banquet speech.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan supported the unification of the Korean people on the basis of the UN Charter and resolutions. The chief guest, Mr Pak Song-chol, expressed his confidence that this goal will be achieved.

The division of the Korean Peninsula along the 38th Parallel followed the Korean war. The Korean war was a major event after World War II. The situation was grave and the big powers got involved in the complex political situation which was developing in the close neighborhood of the newly independent China. Since then north-south tension has continued, many families have been divided and the potentially prosperous peninsula has suffered because of the internal quarrel. However, during the last few years the necessity of uniting the Korean people has been aired by political quarters both in North and South Korea. Of course there are idealistic and political differences and the problem is not simple. But the matter has received the attention of the United Nations and the general views seems to be that efforts should be continued to unite the two parts of Korea.

Pakistan has always been a firm supporter of the resolutions of the United Nations. In fact, Pakistan's only regret has been that the UN resolutions are not always implemented in letter and spirit. If they had been, then the major areas of tension would have been eliminated in all the continents. In keeping with this sentiment, the chief martial law administrator emphasized that elimination of tension was essential for the orderly progress of the developing countries in the Third World. This is the basic point.

Wherever relations between the developing countries are estranged, tension starts building up. These poor countries are forced to buy arms from outside. They cut down their development budgets and pay for these arms through their [words indistinct]. It becomes a vicious circle. The more arms are pumped in, the higher goes the political temperature. The graph of tension jumps beyond measure. That is why Pakistan supports the idea of the elimination of tension, and the best way to do it is to follow the UN resolutions which have the consensus of the member countries.

If the peace and progress of the toiling masses is the objective of a civilized government, then this is the best way to achieve that goal. Pakistan has already set the example of following this course. Its relations are fast improving with its neighbors. The chief martial law administrator said that Pakistan had consistently supported the Korean people in their determination to unite their country, and this policy will be continued.

It may be stressed here that Pakistani-Korean relations have always been correct and cordial. The vice president's visit will be another step on the road of friendship and mutual interest. Pakistan [words indistinct] to the policy of friendship with all and malice toward none. This policy is based on justice, mutual respect and noninterference in other countries' internal affairs. In a world torn by the malady of conflict and tension, this seems to be a sound prescription.

PIRZADA CASE REFERRED TO DISQUALIFICATION TRIBUNAL

BK120925Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Sind chief secretary, on the basis of evidence placed before him, today decided to refer to the disqualification tribunal comprised of Mr Justice Zaffar Hussain Mirza and Brigadier Hassan Abdul Khalid the case of former Federal Minister Mr Abdul Hafiz Pirzada. The formal referral along with supporting documents is expected to be handed over to the tribunal tomorrow. Notification of the referral will appear in the official gazette.

Because of the notification, as laid down in Martial Law Order No 38, Mr Abdul Hafiz Pirzada stands barred from direct or indirect political activity until the tribunal renders its decision on his case.

BRIEFS

INDIAN-BRITISH ECONOMIC MEETING--The Indo-British economic committee, which held its first meeting at the ministerial level in New Delhi on 13 March, discussed ways and means for enlarging and diversifying mutual trade flows and joint collaboration in third countries as well as multilateral issues. The Indian delegation was led by Mohan Dharia, union minister for commerce, civil supplies and cooperation; and the British delegation by Edmund Dell, British secretary of state for trade. Suggestions of the official level subcommittee on trade which met in New Delhi on 10 March 1978 were submitted to the joint committee. The two ministers welcomed the recommendations of the subcommittee regarding creation of (?nodal) agencies in both countries to boost Indo-British collaboration for projects in third countries. It was suggested that the focal point on the Indian side would be the Department of Heavy Industry for Engineering and Civil Construction and the Indian Investment Centre for other sectors. On the British side the Department of Trade could be the focal point for all sectors. [Excerpt] [Delhi ISI in English 0917 GMT 14 Mar 78 BK]

BAHRAINI MINISTER VISITS INDIA--Bahrain Minister for Works Power and Water Majid Jawad al-Jishi arrived in New Delhi on March 9 on a 9-day visit to this country. He was received by Sikandar Bakht, minister for workers and housing, at the Delhi airport and government officials. Al-Jishi told newsmen on arrival that he would have discussions with the Indian Government about technical assistance to Bahrain, which needed engineers and technicians to run its power stations. The two countries had been discussing the matter for some time, he added. The Bahrain minister will visit Agra, Bhopal and Chandigarh during his stay. [Delhi ISI in English 0839 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK]

EEC CEREALS GRANT TO SRI LANKA--Sri Lanka will receive 27,000 tons of cereals as a grant from the European Community this year. This was stated in a communique issued at Brussels after the (?council) meeting. [Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK]

SRI LANKA MINISTER TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA--Colombo, 4 March--TANJUG--It was officially announced here today that Sri Lanka Minister Lalith Athulathmudala will soon visit Yugoslavia as special emissary of President Jayewardene and will bring a message for President Tito. The precise date of his visit has not been announced, but it is expected that Minister Athalathmudala's visit will most likely take place at the end of March. Minister Athalathmudala said that in Yugoslavia he will discuss the preparations for the coming meetings of the nonaligned countries in Kabul and Belgrade. [Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 5 Mar 78 p 1 AU]

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

DAILY REPORT volumes are published Monday through Friday in both paper version (mailed daily) and microfiche version (mailed weekly). Annual subscription including occasional supplements is, for the first volume, \$125 paper/\$100 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, \$70 paper/\$60 fiche; all eight volumes \$575 paper/\$500 fiche. Foreign subscription for the first volume \$160 paper/\$125 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, \$70 paper/\$60 fiche; all eight volumes for \$610 paper/\$525 fiche. Each additional paper or fiche subscription beyond eight is \$50. The volumes are: I—People's Republic of China; II—Eastern Europe; III—Soviet Union; IV—Asia & Pacific; V—Middle East & North Africa; VI—Latin America; VII—Western Europe; VIII—Sub-Saharan Africa. Back issues or single copies are not available. Allow 30 days for processing new subscriptions. Mail remittances, inquiries, and address changes to the NTIS address below.

Note: The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the DAILY REPORT, can also be ordered from NTIS in single copies or by subscription. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date, and author if applicable.

Both the DAILY REPORT and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.

NTIS

National Technical Information Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Springfield, Virginia 22151